FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 JANUARY 1984

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, in a speech broadcast by Cairo radio, expressed appreciation for support received at the recent ICO summit in Casablanca. Egypt belongs to the large Islamic family, Mubarak affirmed, and has long been "in the forefront" of the Islamic movement. It will continue to be a driving force for Islamic unity and will "always remain committed to supporting all Islamic causes." Egyptian patriotism is "no longer a local and narrow concept that disregards strategic and geographical realities," he added, but now adopts the "pan-Arab concept" since Egypt is an integral part of the Arab nation.

Meanwhile, the committee established by the fourth ICO summit to discuss the resumption of Egypt's membership is expected in Cairo on 28 January, SPA reported.

In a related development, a Jordanian Information Ministry spokesman denied that Mubarak will meet with King Husayn in Amman, Radio Monte Carlo announced, although Jordan "in principle" welcomes any meeting among Arab leaders. The same source also denied reports about an upcoming summit in Amman among King Husayn, Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Official Jordanian-Iraqi talks on relations were held in Amman between a delegation led by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and high-ranking Jordanian officials, Amman Television reported. In a separate meeting with King Husayn, the Iraqi official relayed a message from Saddam Husayn and discussed the war with Iran, Amman radio added. Ramadan, speaking to INA on his return to Baghdad, expressed satisfaction with his talks, noting the king's reaffirmation of support for Iraq in its war against Iran.

Syria

Tension between Syria and the United States has grown worse in recent days despite the "relative improvement" in relations after Syria's release of the captured U.S. pilot, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' said in an interview with the London *FINANCIAL TIMES* reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Syria is not causing this exacerbation in relations and does not know why it is happening, he said. As for inter-Arab affairs, Syria has no objection in principle to participating in an Arab summit attended by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, but problems about the Palestinian representation will "inevitably arise" because of 'Arafat's decision to "play the role that Anwar as-Sadat assumed."

Saudi Arabia

When Saudi Arabia's new French-built "Ash-Shahin" antiaircraft missiles replace the Crotale system in a "few months," the Kingdom's airspace will be protected from low altitudes to a height of 70,000 feet, Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan announced in remarks on Riyadh radio.

Israel

Knesset — Motions of no confidence in the government were defeated in the Knesset by 62 to 56 votes, Jerusalem radio reported. The TAMI faction voted with the government after the latter agreed to some of TAMI's economic demands, the radio noted.

Kohl Visit — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held talks with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl which were "in perfect harmony despite existing differences of opinion," DPA reported.

West Bank — The cut in the Zionist Organization's Settle-ments Department budget will prevent the establishment of 11 new settlements planned for "Judaea and Samaria" in the coming fiscal year, according to IDF Radio. Meanwhile, in an interview with Jerusalem radio, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that "ultimately" he favors the application of Israeli law to "Judaea and Samaria." Israel's security calls for ruling the area and this will be the situation in the "very long run," Arens affirmed.

U.S. Arms for Jordan — Israel regards the proposed sale of U.S. Stinger antiaircraft missiles to Jordan as a "threat," Jerusalem radio reported.

Chad

A French Jaguar was shot down over Chad when French planes were fired upon by a motorized force which had crossed into southern Chad and captured 12 Chadians and 2 members of the Doctors Without Frontiers organization, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu disclosed in a statement broadcast by Paris radio. After locating the column and coming under SAM fire, the French planes destroyed several of the vehicles, which were Libyan, Hernu stated. However, JANA denied the "totally unfounded" French reports that Libyan troops are in Chad and cited the clandestine Radio Bardai's claim that forces of Goukouni Oueddei's "legitimate unity government" had downed two French Jaguars.

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Arab Parliamentary Union Concludes Session

GF251814 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] council concluded its 14th session in San'a' this evening by holding a final meeting under 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president, chairman of the Constituent People's Assembly, member of the Standing Committee, and chairman of the council. The council issued a final statement on the results that it reached during this session.

WAKH Reports Concluding Statement

GF260535 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] San'a', 25 Jan (WAKH) — The APU has called on Iran to respond to logic, stop the war, and participate in negotiations with Iraq in order to achieve a just and honorable settlement that would secure the rights of both countries. The APU expressed its appreciation for Iraq's peaceful stands and for its response to all the Arab and Islamic mediation and appeals to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war.

At the conclusion of its meetings which were held in San'a', the APU stressed that the Arabian Gulf's security is the sole responsibility of its coastal countries and that any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the region's states would undermine the security of the area.

The APU highly praised the escalation of the revolutionary action and heroic steadfastness of the Arab Palestinian masses in their confrontation of the Zionist entity. In the resolutions and recommendations issued today, the Arab parliamentarians called on the leaders of the Arab nation to formulate a strategy for a joint Arab action on all military, economic, and political levels. They also denounced all the practices that are aimed at containing independent Palestinian decisionmaking and expressed their utmost concern regarding Lebanon's independence and the integrity of its territories.

The APU also stressed the necessity of an immediate cease-fire and the achievement of national accord, and called for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the Lebanese territories as well as the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces. It also called for the necessity of stopping all press campaigns among the Arab states and urged them to resolve their differences through constructive and fraternal dialogue.

Islamic Committee To Visit Cairo 28 Jan

LD251354 Riyadh SPA in English 1220 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, Jan 25, SPA — A committee set up by the fourth Islamic summit to discuss the resumption of Egypt's membership in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) is expected here on Saturday. The committee is chaired by Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure and includes foreign ministers of Iraq and Pakistan and Habib Chatti, secretary general of the OIC.

'Arafat To Head Fatah Group on Cairo Visit

NC261037 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, Jan 26 (AFP) — PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat is to head a special Fatah committee on a working visit to Egypt sometime before mid-February, according to a reliable source here. The source said the visit would take place before the scheduled meeting in Algiers of the Palestinian National Council on February 17. Mr 'Arafat met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak last December 22, his first visit here since the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

PLO Executive, Fatah To Begin Talks in Tunis

LD251507 Rabat MAP in English 1219 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, Jan 25 (MAP) — The PLO Executive Committee and the Central Committee of the Palestinian Movement "Fatah" (principal movement within the PLO) will hold a series of separate meetings beginning today in Tunis, soon after PLO and "Fatah" leader Yasir 'Arafat's return from Dakar where he is on an official visit since Monday, informed Palestinian sources here said. Mr 'Arafat's coming visit to Jordan will be the major issue to be discussed, added the same sources.

PLO and Fatah leaders will discuss the measures to be taken in preparation for this visit, and define the framework within which Jordano-Palestinian talks are to take place, and study steps to be taken for intensifying efforts (Jordano-Palestinian) for reaching a united stance on joint diplomatic and political action, both at the Arab and international levels.

It is to be noted that many Palestinian leaders have recently held talks with Jordanian officials in preparation for Mr 'Arafat's visit to Jordan. Jordanian officials have repeatedly affirmed their readiness to coordinate efforts with PLO leaders during the coming stage, on the basis of the resolutons of the Arab summit in Rabat (1974), which declared the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and pledged to respect the independence of Palestinian decision making.

Khalaf Says PLO To Abide by Fes, PNC Resolutions

LD251527 Kuwait KUNA in English 1057 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, Jan 25 (KUNA) — Central Committee member of the major commando movement Fatah, Salah Khalaf, has affirmed the PLO's abidance by the Palestine National Council, parliament in exile, and the Fes summit resolutions. The Palestinian leader, who was speaking to newsmen after meeting with Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi Tuesday, expressed hopes that Egypt will return to the Arab fold after renouncing the Camp David accords. Khalaf said that discussions with the Tunisian official have tackled the Palestinian cause and the outcome of the fourth Islamic summit conference recently concluded in the Moroccan coastal city of Casablanca. He affirmed that their views were "identical" and reflected the Palestinian revolution's appreciation to the Tunisian role in support of the cause.

Moscow PLO Official Denies Report on Hawatimah

LD251457 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, 25 Jan (TAP) — Rami ash-Sha'ir, official in charge of PLO affairs in Moscow, has denied reports carried by some Arab newspapers on statements attributed to Nayif Hawatimah attacking Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. Rami ash-Sha'ir said in a statement published yesterday in Tunis that these reports are totally devoid of truth.

PLO Official Comments on Funding Problems

JN260806 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jan 84 pp 1, 21

[Nabil 'Amir dispatch]

[Excerpt] Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Palestinian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, has expressed the hope that the fraternal Arab countries will pay their shares, which were decided by the Baghdad summit, to support the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territories so the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee can continue its work to entrench the Arab Palestinian individual in our Arab Palestinian territory where the Israeli occupation is trying to Judaize, devour, and expel its people.

In an exclusive statement to *AD-DUSTUR* yesterday, Abu Sittah said that the Arab countries did not pay their shares in 1983 to support the Palestinian people's steadfastness. Only one Arab country has paid its share, and another Arab country one-third of its share. This situation caused a 10 million dinar deficit in the committee's fund and stopped many vital projects in the occupied territory. These projects help support the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied homeland and constitute the main reason for the formation of this committee.

Syria Expels Iranians to Al-Biqa', Tehran

JN260916 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 26 Jan 84 pp 1, 28

[Text] Damascus — Exclusive — This week Syria moved more than 600 Iranians belonging to the so-called Iranian revolution guards to the Al-Biqa' in Lebanon where they were held in a special camp. This Syrian move came after these Iranians had propogated the Khomeyniite revolution among Syrian citizens by distributing leaflets and pictures of Khomeyni.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry complained to Tehran about this more than 1 month ago, but did not receive any reply. Two weeks ago the Syrian authorities stopped Syrians from contacting these Iranians of which there are more than 2,500. Consequently, the Iranian guards escalated their activities and call for supporting the Khomeyni regime among the Syrian citizens. The Syrian security authorities detained some of the Iranians, and expelled the extremists to Tehran.

Resistance Group Kills 2 Israeli Officers

JN251741 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance fighters continue their heroic operations agaisnt the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon. A group of resistance fighters has carried out a daring attack on a Zionist jeep that was carrying two Zionist intelligence officers in southern Lebanon. The attackers used hand grenades and machineguns in their attack, killing the two intelligence officers and seriously wounding their driver.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the attack and the killing of the two officers. The enemy spokesman said that the two officers were Major (Ya'ir Rahimlobid) and 1st Lieutenant (Rig Sagi). The spokesman did not give the name of the driver, who was seriously wounded. The spokesman added that his forces cordoned off the area and mopped it up in order to search for the resistance fighters, who managed to return safely to base.

Another resistance group detonated remote-controlled charges under a Zionist military convoy north of Al-Insariyah, in southern Lebanon. The explosion killed or wounded several Zionist soldiers. While admitting the attack, a Zionist spokesman claimed that only three Zionist soldiers were wounded and that the Zionist forces arrested several citizens for interrogation.

A third resistance group attacked a Zionist military patrol east of Sidon, in southern Lebanon. All of the patrol elements were either killed or wounded. A Zionist spokesman also admitted this attack, but claimed that only one soldier was wounded. He added that the Zionist forces mopped up the area in order to search for the resistance fighters.

JANA on Palestinians' Call for Arab Volunteers

LD261104 Tripoli JANA in English 0950 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 22, Jan 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Palestinian resistance calls upon members of the great Arab nation to volunteer to join the Palestinian resistance to liberate Palestine. Volunteers are requested to apply to the offices of the PFLP-GC, the vanguard of the popular liberation war As-Sai'qah, the PFLP, the Popular Struggle Front or any offices of the Libyan Arab people's bureau.

Baghdad PLO Radio on U.S. Pressure on Europe

JN251927 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1653 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Since the EC states have begun to reconsider and reevaluate their stands on our just cause, which depends on the peoples' right to enjoy their basic and fundamental rights, both the United States and the Zionist enemy have started to draw up designs and plans to put pressure on and either blackmail or

implicitly threaten these states in order to prevent them from adopting any decision or even recommendation in favor of our people's cause and legitimate rights. This pressure and blackmail can still be seen on more than one occasion and in more than one cheap method.

Despite all of the aforementioned factors and pressures, many European states, the foremost of which are France and Italy, as well as Greece and Spain, have managed to adopt a stand that meets the minimum of the principles included in the famous Venice declaration issued by the EC states. Although this statement was humble and reluctant in form and principle, it nevertheless formed one of the indicators of Europe's future role, which has developed positively in favor of our people's cause. We can currently feel this role represented in the stands of Greece, France, and Italy.

These stands are heading toward recognizing the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and toward recognizing our people's unchanging right to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state. This serious process was felt in practical terms during France's stand on the siege of Beirut and Tripoli, and was made clearer in other circumstances. This process now constitutes a basic turning point in the stands of the Western European states. Naturally, this stand was imposed by the logic of right and justice, and was achieved through our people's sacrifices and under the leadership of the PLO.

However, one must say that the European stand is now being subjected to joint Zionist-U.S. pressure aimed at preventing Europe from further developing this stand and translating it into a decision and a recommendation, particularly now that France is about to assume the EC chairmanship. The U.S. Administration's pressures failed to achieve the desired results through France, Italy, and Greece. Therefore, these U.S. pressures hope to achieve success through the FRG in order to cause a rift in the anticipated European stand and to undermine the equation of the new European process. Although things have not yet been decisively concluded, we can feel that the Zionist-U.S. pressures are beginning to succeed.

This dangerous success can be seen in the visit to Tel Aviv by the FRG's Kohl. This visit comes within the framework of the U.S. moves in Europe and is dangerous because of its timing. It comes to break the enemy government's isolation on the European level. This is in addition to the visit's political and economic dimensions, as far as the Shamir Government is concerned. It is expected that Shamir's government will resort to all forms of pressures in order to wrest an FRG stand showing more support for this government and to place increasing barriers before the anticipated European stand.

Furthermore, Kohl's visit seems to be a reply to France's invitation for Brother Abu 'Ammar to pay an official visit to France. There is no doubt that terrorist Shamir's government will continue to blackmail the FRG, particularly by playing on the Nazi crimes or on the so-called guilt complex. This is in addition to brandishing the impact of the Jewish votes in the FRG. Naturally, the United States will back this Israeli inclination. It seems that these issues have become so important to the FRG media, which warned against and strongly criticized Kohl's visit by stressing that the Nazi crimes must not be atoned for by supporting and backing the Zionism crimes beginning in Dayr Yasin and ending in Sabra and Shatila.

In spite of our rejection of Kohl's visit to Tel Aviv, we still say that neither the FRG people nor government should back the aggressors and the racists at the expense of justice and right — and even at the expense of the unity of the European stand in favor of our people's cause. This united European stand is the least that Europe should do to face the crimes committed against our people by neo-Nazism and its allies.

BAHRAIN

Official Expresses Optimism on Oil Reserves

GF261007 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 26 Jan-1 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] Bahrain's oil reserves are expected to last well into the next century, according to a top government official.

Mr Rashid Hasan ad-Dhubayb, deputy head of the oil directorate at the Ministry of Development and Industry, was commenting on figures just released which show Bahrain produced less oil last year but more natural gas.

"People have said that Bahrain's oil will dry up in about 30 years, but we expect our reserves to last even longer, thanks to new recovery techniques, conservation measures and possible new discoveries."

As a result of the diversification of Bahrain's economic base, its oil related revenue is now expected to contribute about 68 percent of the 1985 national budget compared with between 70 and 75 percent in recent years. In 1985 the figure could drop even further to 63 percent.

Daily oil production on the island slumped by five percent or 2,200 barrels during the past year and it now stands at 41,800 BPD. At the same time, natural gas production went up in response to local demand and it now stands at 384 million cubic feet daily, up 6.4 percent on the figure five years ago.

But while Bahrain's oil output is expected to decrease further by about three percent in 1984, the natural gas production will grow with a big boost expected especially when a new refinery is completed next January.

Commenting on the figures, Mr ad-Dhubayb said the decline in Bahrain's oil production was due both to the general world market trends and a depletion of oil reserves, "But," he added, "We are reasonably optimistic."

Bahrain's small oil production is supplemented by imports of light crude from Saudi Arabia.

In addition to oil, Bahrain now exploits the associated gases which used to be flared off. Extraction ran at 128 million cubic feet daily in 1983 with the Bahrain National Gas Company producing 2,700 BPD of propane, 2,500 barrels of butane and 3,500 barrels of naphtha.

Bahrain hopes to increase its production of natural gas which is all consumed locally Mr ad-Dhubayb said.

KUWAIT

Interior Minister, Military Chief on Security

LD261154 Kuwait KUNA in English 1050 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 26 (KUNA) — Kuwait is to install radar systems at its border checkpoints as part of a security scheme to prevent infiltration, the local press reported Thursday. Quoting Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad and army Chief of Staff Major General Abdallah Faraj al-Ghanim in two separate reports, the press noted this scheme comes in implementation of a Cabinet plan to fill the loopholes exposed by the chain of blasts which occured December 12.

The minister was quoted as affirming the importance of a continued vigilance by security forces to prevent the recurrence of similar acts "although advanced security means in any country cannot ensure against such sinful acts."

Shaykh Nawwaf noted that a security belt would be tightened around Kuwait along the coastal line which served as a main entry gap for the culprits.

On new measures aimed to control the flow of expatriates into the country, Shaykh Nawwaf said the ministry is currently cooperating with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour on the issue of visitors' visas and work permits to insure that the new and more strict criteria was applied. Permits and visas are currently banned as a security measure to be lifted soon while the appointment of non-Kuwait employees at both the public and private sectors has to be approved by the interior ministry from now on as means of covering all security gaps disclosed by the incidents.

Out of twenty five persons accused, 21 will be tried on February 11 by a state security court for crimes related to the blasts. The other four persons are reported to be still at large.

On the other hand, Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. al-Ghanim was quoted as saying a contingent from the Kuwait Coast Guard had been sent to West Germany for training in preparation for stepping up patrols along the country's coastline.

Speaking after a ceremony held at the Kuwaiti Military Academy on the occasion of the graduation of the tenth batch of conscripts, Al-Ghanim said the contingent would be re-equipped for the task of guarding the 175 km coast.

Maj. Gen. al-Ghanim said that the country had no plans to buy the sophisticated French warplane, Super-Etendard. He was referring to recent press reports in this regard. The fighter-bombers were acquired by Iraq a few months ago.

He hailed the joint Kuwait-Saudi airforce exercises currently underway in the country. Such joint manoeuvres would go a long way in boosting the fighting capacity of Gulf forces, he said adding they would also contribute to the moves for unification of military codes and improve joint combat tactics.

The Major-general said moves were afoot to set up a new training school for pilots and a new school for coastguards. He also disclosed that studies were under way to build new premises for the military headquarters.

PDRY

Salah Khalaf Arrives 25 January

GF251810 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Aden today for a visit to our country that will last several days. During his visit he will discuss recent developments in the Palestinian arena with party and government leaders.

In a statement to ANA, Abu Iyad said he will hold talks with the brother officials on recent developments of the Palestinian issue and the PLO's work during the coming phase, and he affirmed the importance of PLO unity.

He expressed his extreme appreciation for the relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions in the struggle against the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan and in confronting all kinds of conspiratorial attempts aimed at liquidating the just cause of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to return and self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Cabinet Holds Regular Meeting 25 January

GF251330 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting today under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The council discussed topics on its agenda. It reviewed the most important Arab and international political situations and our delegation's stand on the Islamic summit, as well as the conference's results on the various issues discussed during its meetings.

The council also discussed its working plan for 1984 on various levels and approved it. It also approved the loan agreement signed between our country and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance the fish institute's project and develop fishing cooperatives. It approved an agreement facilitating trade exchange among Arab countries.

The council also studied a report on the participation of our country's delegation at the FAO's general conference.

SAUDI ARABIA

Defense Minister on New Air Defense System

LD251431 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, watched the annual Air Defense Corps exercises this morning. Afterward his royal highness made the following statement to representatives of the radio, the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, and the press:

[Begin recording] [Sultan] When Saudi Arabia signed the first agreement with the United States for the Hawk missile project 12 years ago, it started training and built training schools. More than 3,000 Saudi youths have graduated in the most modern science and technology. The Air Defense Force is controlled technologically by faithful Saudi youthful hands. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is proud of this, that its sons are defending its holy holy places.

Since that time we have looked at developments in the world. We have sharpened our will and shared our wealth with other countries to obtain what we want. We have obtained what it is possible to obtain from the United States; we have obtained what could be obtained from Switzerland; and we have obtained what could be obtained from France. These three countries have their own specialities and developments in air defense.

I shall not go on long. I want to explain that a week ago we signed an agreement with the French Government for the Ath-Thaqib project and the Ash-Shahin project to cost the state about $4 billion. This is considered to be the world's the largest deal in the last 10 years. This deal was not born overnight; it was a study lasting 5 years, in which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contributed huge sums together with the French state, with the French Armed Forces, and with French factories until France achieved this great sophisticated technology which has not been used even by the French forces so far.

The first power in the world to reap the fruit of this technology will be the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I believe, brothers, that you would not like me to divulge the details of this weapon; it is to remain secret to the enemy in the service of friends.

Hence, in the exercises we witnessed today there were three systems of air defense: the Oerlikon (?canon) system, which you saw; the Crotale system of France — missiles as you saw; the sophisticated Hawk system, as you saw. The Crotale system is to be replaced by the Ash-Shahin. God willing, in a few months the sophisticated Ash-Shahin system is to replace the Crotale. The skies and territory of the Kingdom from 30 feet to 70,000 feet will be protected.

[Unidentified journalist, question indistinct]

[Sultan] I believe France's stands on Arab issues are honorable, although we would like more. Hence, when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia adopted relations with France, it was not a spontaneous act but the result of France's stands. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of his majesty the king, deals with nations according to their stands on Islamic and Arab issues; hence these modern weapons. I do not want specify the time scale, but I can say that the first consignment will arrive within months and will end in a few years, because they are a sophisticated strike force and we must know that they are built with care and attention and will be in safe hands.

[Unidentified journalist] We have heard that Saudi experts contributed to development of the Ash-Shahin missiles, about which Your Royal Highness spoke.

[Sultan] Yes. The acting air defense commander a short while ago presented four youths from the Air Defense Corps. There are youths — the number cannot be given — being trained in this sphere. There are youths working with French (?experts) in this sphere.

[Unidentified journalist] Do you believe other countries can benefit from Saudi experience in this sphere?

[Sultan] Countries which are friendly to France and the Kingdom can benefit, but with Saudi approval.

[Unidentified journalist, question inidistinct]

[Sultan] In fact, (?there is no problem). We thank the United States for its cooperation and its (?response) to arming us. But, as you know, every country has its specialties and every country has its laws and systems and stances. This does not bind Saudi Arabia to any one country. It is bound by the interest of [word indistinct], its interest and the interest of the Arab and Islamic nation. Diversification of weapons is one of the bases of the Armed Forces.

[Unidentified journalist] Your Highness, Israel is stirring up propaganda these days about preventing the Kingdom from obtaining German weapons. The German chancellor is now visiting Israel. What are Your Highness' views about this stance, and will the German Government respond to these Israeli pressures?

[Sultan] The matter concerns Germany itself. The Kingdom is free to purchase weapons from any country, and is not bound by an agreement with German [words indistinct]. The Kingdom is not under Israel's will (?for what) it does for the benefit of the Kingdom. Germany will be the beneficiary of this deal. If it wants to benefit materially, it has to respond; if does not want to benefit materially, then it has to refrain. I believe Germany is free to choose and will not be bound by Israel's views or the views of others in matters which concern its interests. [end recording]

Message Received From Kuwaiti Premier

LD241409 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, acting on behalf of his majesty, has received a message from the heir apparent of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah.

The message was delivered by the secretary general of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Utaybi, when he was received by his royal highness today.

UAE

Prime Minister Leaves for Pakistan Visit

GF260759 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0645 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, vice president and prime minister, left the country for Karachi this morning on a private visit to Pakistan that will last several days. His highness is accompanied by Defense Minister Muhammad ibn Rashid.

He was seen off at Dubayy airport by Shaykh Maktum ibn Rashid al-Maktum, deputy prime minister and Dubai heir apparent, and a number of shaykhs and senior officials in the state.

AL-BAYAN Comments on U.S.-Israeli Talks

GF260831 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] In the UAE, the newspapers *AL-BAYAN* and *AL-KHALIJ* in their editorials today talk about the secret talks that took place recently between the United States and the Israeli enemy concerning the execution of the strategic cooperation agreement between them. The papers warn that these talks were held in order to formulate a plan for a military operation that will prepare the atmosphere for withdrawing the U.S. Marines from Lebanon. Both newspapers stress that these talks have exposed America's role of increasing historic hostility to the Arab nation.

AL-BAYAN, which is published in Dubayy, says it has seen nothing new in the relations between the United States and Israel since the first moment Israel's establishment was declared on 15 May 1948 because "these relations have always been based on a strategic alliance, although there has been no official document to state so."

The paper reviewed the development of events since the establishment of the Zionist entity saying: These events confirm that, in addition to the U.S. political, economic, and military support that is being offered to the enemy, all U.S. presidents since Harry Truman have sought to gain the support of the Zionist lobby in the presidential elections, including President Ronald Reagan who, by announcing this alliance, hopes to gain similar support in the upcoming presidential election.

The paper stresses that it is the circumstances of the Arab homeland which encouraged President Reagan to escalate and develop his alliance with the Israeli entity. The paper called on the Arabs to take into account that the secret talks which have taken place to implement the strategic alliance and which are aimed at formulating a plan for a military operation to prepare the atmosphere for withdrawing the Marines from Lebanon. The paper also said: "Anyhow, it is not befitting to expect anything but the worst as a result of the U.S.-Israeli alliance."

'Text' of Mubarak Law Enforcement Conference Speech

NC251210 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0955 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to the final session of the "Law Enforcement in the Year 2000" conference at the Police Academy in Cairo — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Brother citizens, honorable guests of Egypt:

We meet today with great pride and happiness to celebrate Egyptian Police Day, which embodies the people's appreciation for a sincere group of their sons that works selflessly and in silence. They perform a great national mission that requires many efforts and much work and sweat and a great amount of vigilance and sense of responsibility. Furthermore, it requires a high standard of good conduct, high values, and an exceptional ability to make sacrifices for the sake of God and the homeland.

The Egyptian police has established firm and strong traditions while carrying out its mission in the various phases of political and social development. It has also acquired an accurate understanding of its national duty as a protective shield of society, guardian of its security and stability, and defender of its freedom. It does so not by exercising authority but by resorting to the law and legality, submitting to right and justice, refraining from arbitrariness and bias, and adhering to honesty, good conduct, and loyalty to the people. The Egyptian police was thus able to become one of the most important national institutions. It serves all classes of society; protects their rights and interests; and safeguards their heritage, cultural assets, and daily life without [word indistinct] or persecution, but with complete selflessness.

Therefore, the police is performing a prominent role in the maintenance of national security in its full sense. It plays the same role as the Armed Forces, defending the homeland and lives of the citizens. Internal and external security are two faces of the same coin, with a great degree of integration. They have the same aim and purpose; namely, ensuring the homeland's freedom and independent decisionmaking and protecting the individual and society against aggression, injustice, and exploitation.

The Egyptian people extend greetings of appreciation, pride, and gratitude to every member of the Egyptian police. [applause] The people are cognizant of the enormous burden and serious responsibility which a policeman shoulders, as well as his sacrifices. The policeman suffers so that the people may be happy and he remains awake so that they may sleep safely. The policeman doesn't hesitate to face dangers or shy from the most difficult challenges. He continues to perform his sacred duty, armed with faith in his God, loyalty to his homeland, and faithfulness to his nation and people. Brothers, the mission of the police in our age has become very sensitive and important. It is closely connected to the scientific and technological revolution that society is witnessing and with the deep social transformations that the entire Arab homeland is undergoing. This places additional responsibilities on the policeman : acquiring knowledge, using scientific investigation methods, and learning the most modern law enforcement systems and methods without undermining the citizens' rights and freedom.

We consider the freedom of the individual and people a sacred duty that cannot be relinquished or violated under any circumstances. The dignity of man, whom God has chosen as a special creature and his successor on this land, is a basic principle that governs our political and social movement. It defines our perception of the dividing line between what is permissible and impermissible, as well as our perception of the close relationship between right and duty, and the delicate balance between the interests of the individual and society.

Therefore, it was natural that our celebration of Police Day was preceded by scientific seminars during which 500 research papers were discussed. These papers focused on all aspects of police work in the present and future. They discussed present day as well as future requirements. This approach is consistent with the fact that the world is undergoing deep and successive changes. The quick pace of development turns inertia into a kind of backwardness and any hesitation to move constantly into a kind of paralysis. Action should not be sporadic, but planned in a scientific way, based on an objective understanding of national goals and the awareness that tomorrow's Egypt can only be built by the brains and youthful arms of its sons. We all should sacrifice for Egypt.

The conference's proceedings during the recent days show that the security forces are fully aware of the dimensions of their responsibilities. They understand the basic challenge facing us all; namely, providing a better life for the citizens, safeguarding the solidity of the internal front, and ensuring independent decisionmaking when faced with foreign ambitions and schemes.

Against this background, we find that the proper approach for accomplishing the police's mission in our society is to adopt a preventive approach. This means we should attempt to identify the true reasons for divergent social behavior and eradicate its roots. We should not be satisfied with treating its external symptoms. The success of the police's mission is measured by its ability to stop crime before it happens and in changing the atmosphere that breeds crime.

For example, the police has adopted a proper approach in dealing with a phenomenon alien to Egyptian society, values, and customs. I refer to the phenomenon of extremism, which is unjustly and unjustifiably attributed to religion. Religion has nothing to do with extremism. The divine teachings are primarily based on tolerance and avoidance of fanaticism. These teachings address themselves to man's mind and conscience through persuasion, good advice, and a call for doing good; they do not call for handing down oppressive and false verdicts against others.

Thus it was logical that we meet this phenomenon by dialogue and debate. We tried to correct the false concepts, which emerge from ignorance, from failure to consult the correct sources of the Sharia law, and from uninhibited interpretation of religious matters without sufficient knowledge. Such a phenomenon cannot be faced simply as a danger to security. We have to probe it and scrutinize its causes. We have already come a long way in this respect. Nevertheless, we still have to pursue this phenomenon in all its sociological, psychological, and economic aspects. I hope the efforts we exert in face of this phenomenon will not cease and that more people will become interested in studying it

more academicians and specialized researchers. The fact that this phenomenon is ebbing and claiming fewer victims should not distract us from its perils and possible future repercussions for this country, which God wished to see as a fortress of security and liberty.

In this regard, it is our basic duty to maintain stability in the land of Egypt. This is a responsibility which all of us should shoulder irrespective of our position or creed, because every edifice at home and abroad must be based on a solid, unshakeable foundation. In the absence of stability, none of us can enjoy true democracy, participate in the government, or look to the future with hope. In such a situation, democracy would become a hollow slogan having no meaning. We are aware that the democratic course is not an end in itself but a means to ensure a free and dignified life for man through effective and direct participation in the general work, the safeguarding of the right of free choice for every citizen, and the achievement of real equality in rights and duties, because the homeland is for all and glory is to Egypt.

Brothers, I have been insisting on these bases, on maintaining the delicate balance between the exigencies of stability and need for renovation and change, so that change will come as a positive addition to the assets of our noble people and not as a revolution against the people's achievements, an onslaught against their gains, or a threat to their interests.

We must be frank with ourselves in this respect, because those who resort to oneupmanship and excessiveness are harming democracy and contributing to its jeopardization however much they brag in their slogans and statements. The violations committed in the name of democracy are no less dangerous than arbitrariness in the exercise of authority. Each leads to reversing the democratic process, to shaking confidence in it, and creating the necessary atmosphere for delivering the coup de grace.

We recognize the right of every citizen to adopt the principles he wishes and to choose the path he prefers within a framework of respect for the will of the whole society and adherence to the supreme national interests. Every Egyptian also has the right to call on his compatriots to support him, but this does not justify fomenting sedition or creating an atmosphere conducive for clashes and tension among the various political and social forces at a time when the spirit of dialogue prevails and when there is a true desire to mobilize the efforts of all citizens and give them an opportunity to participate in building the new Egypt. While repeating that there is no turning back from democracy and the democratic choice, I again urge caution, because the homeland's interests are above all considerations, and its safety above all commitments.

The national action is by nature a ceaseless, continuous, and indefatigable movement, which does not revolve in a vicious circle but keeps abreast with the movement of history. It emanates from a specific social situation. It appears that some believe they can stop the wheel of history or turn back the clock under the pretext of devotion to the past, or make bright the image that prevailed before 1952. The seriousness of this trend is not only represented in the disavowal of the huge accomplishments that the Egyptian people have achieved since then, but also goes beyond that casting doubts on the vigilance of the people and their ability to steer matters along a sound course that would achieve the interests of the overwhelming majority of their sons. However, we do not deny the fact that certain accomplishments were achieved before the July 1952 revolution. Moreover, since I assumed power I have been careful not to say the history of modern Egypt began with the revolution. This, however, should not mean that the march of the Egyptian people came to a halt at the beginning of the 23 July Revolution or that the people's accomplishments are imaginery and nonexistent.

No one can deny that the revolution rescued the country from foreign hegemony and exploitation, and created opportunities for the people of our Arab nation and the Third World to rid themselves of the colonialist influence. The revolution wiped out feudalism; built a huge industrial base in the heart of the Arab homeland; safeguarded the rights of workers and peasants; protected Egypt from the bloody class struggles which could have surfaced as a result of the oppressive situation that prevailed in our society before the revolution; and paved the way to catch up to the technological revolution in the space age. These are tangible accomplishments to which foes before friends have attested. There is no way we can deny or detract from these accomplishments, because they are a part of Egypt's history and not just a page in a book on the history of an individual or group. No one can forge the history of peoples or distort the image of their struggle.

In actuality there were mistakes and excesses. There also was a frustration of some of the hopes we had pinned on the revolution, although this is part of the nature of human activities. We do not claim that we are now infallible. All we can say is that we are doing our utmost and demonstrating our concern about the public interest. We constantly seek the protection of God Almighty in all our walks of life, believing that right will eventually triumph.

We have precisely defined the priorities in the national action and size of the challenges facing us. We have decided that our goal should be to work hard for God and the people, and to open the way to every Egyptian who wishes to participate in the upsurge of Egypt's new renaissance. There can be no monopoly on work, no restraint on thought, no restriction on opinion, no fanaticism, no partisanship; instead, constructive competition for the sake of Egypt and comprehensive cooperation for the sake of Egypt's interests and aspirations should prevail.

One of the most important requisites, which we were eager to have in the national action process at this stage, was scientific planning and a profound study in which a broad base of the citizens could participate. Therefore, an integrated 5-year development plan was drawn up. We have agreed to abide by this plan in all spheres and under all circumstances. It is sufficient to know that the total of public and governmental sector investments actually spent from July 1982 until January 1984, that is, in 18 months, reached 6.9 billion pounds. This is equivalent to 50 percent of what was spent in this sector in the previous 5 years. During the same period we added 765 megawatts to electric energy. This represents 50 percent of the power generated by the High Dam. These percentages do not differ much from the rates of expansion in agricultural and industrial production, in the services and utilities projects, and in the infrastructure.

Brother citizens, I have great dreams in mind for Egypt which are no illusions or a look to the unknown. They are derived from a realistic view of the ability of this great people to make history and wage battles. I do not base my view on any inflexible commitment to any past period, but my affiliation is directed toward the future, my commitment is confined to pursuing what is right, and my loyalty is to God and the people. [applause]

I profoundly believe that the greatest challenge facing us is to strengthen the domestic front by increasing production, by being sincere in tackling the problems, and by beginning a serious activity for intellectual and cultural revival. Man cannot live by bread alone. We also need to make a comprehensive review of our individual and collective norms of behavior, because we cannot face the challenges of the future with mere ideas of the past and present.

My view of the economic system that suits our environment is based on my visualization of two basic targets; namely, to increase production and achieve social justice. I believe that the foreign theories being proposed to achieve those two goals, including those stemming from Marxism, do not constitute good bases for a factual, integrated program. On the contrary, our thoughts should first of all turn to the authentic tributaries of the Egyptian national mobility throughout the successive historical phases, in a serious attempt aimed to arrive at a developed formula for methods to attain the national goals.

It is inadmissible that state ownership of the means of production should fetter the Egyptian man's creative capability, or that this ownership should kill the Egyptian man's incentive for advancement and creativity. Therefore, the private sector's role is regarded as a legitimate component necessary for economic and social evolution in its comprehensive sense, as long as this role remains far removed from exploitative practices, and as long as it moves in the interests of all the people because these interests are bound by law and dictated by the people's collective consciousness.

In my view, social justice cannot be achieved through the kindling of social strife and the exacerbation of societal inequality. Social justice is achieved instead by diminishing class conflict, by using the state's resources in resolving the problems of the broad sectors, and by having a taxation system that guarantees that the people contribute to the public costs in accordance with their capacity and ability. This should be done in such a way that society is based on solidarity and mutual safeguards, instead of a society based on inequality and conflict.

Furthermore, it is imperative that the concept of Egyptian patriotism be clear and unambiguous, because this patriotism is the basis of loyalty to, and affiliation with, the homeland. This patriotism is also the safety valve for the people's collective mobility.

We are a people that has been characterized as having a deep sense of patriotism throughout its long history. Therefore, all of our actions must be channeled toward preserving the independent national will and the Egyptian identity together with its various civic ingredients. We are pained to see a small number of our compatriots prepared to march under a foreign banner, or to accept backing from a foreign quarter, whichever that may be. This is a matter toward which we cannot be tolerant or ignorant because the squandering of the homeland's rights is an unforgivable sin. The reason also lies in the fact that undivided loyalty brings with it enjoyment of citizenship rights and protection by the homeland.

Egyptian patriotism is no longer a local and narrow concept that disregards the strategic and geographical realities of Egypt. Even more, Egyptian patriotism now adopts the pan-Arab concept on the grounds that we are an integral part of the Arab nation — not only through heritage and civilization, but also through common interests and destiny. Therefore, we believe in the unity of the Arab peoples. This unity transgresses constitutional forms and legal aspects. It is achieved through interaction and cohesion by all levels of the masses.

This is an enormous responsibility which no party or small group of intellectuals can undertake alone. It also cannot be accomplished overnight. It is achieved through persistent work and bitter struggle in which the masses participate. In other words, unity cannot be the beginning of national work but is by necessity the crowning achievement of persistent and sincere efforts exerted by those who believe in unity in every Arab country. Thus, Arab society can move from disintegration and estrangement to rapprochement and cohesion. We have built the structure of integration between the two parts of the Nile Valley on this basis as a rational step on the way toward a comprehensive Arab unity. [applause]

Furthermore, Egypt belongs to the large Islamic family. It is linked to its members by a sacred tie. Throughout the ages Egypt has been in the forefront of the Islamic movement on the way to progress and development. It will always remain committed to supporting all Islamic causes. [applause] The people who share this affiliation with us and understand the essence of the Islamic faith are not ignorant of this fact. Therefore, it was natural for us to witness that splendid scene in Casablanca a few days ago when the leaders of the Islamic states stood up, at their own gracious initiative, and spoke about the role of the Egyptian people and their record, which abounds in struggles for God and right. The outcome of that conference was a unique epic of which our people are proud and which they have met with gratitude and loyalty. [Applause]

To those brothers who embody Islam's spirit and lofty ideals, the believers of Egypt extend the most sincere expressions of appreciation and pride and renew the pledge to continue with them the great human struggle march on the path of justice, freedom, and dignity. [Applause] Egypt, as they have always known it, will be a driving force for the unity of the Islamic community and for bringing its people together. There must be no hatred or rancor, but close ties, compassion, love, and constructive dialogue. Our procession will continue on its way, striving for glory, sowing love, and spreading peace. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [Applause]

Mubarak Receives Message From Nigerian Leader

NC251515 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from the new Nigerian leader, General Mohammed Buhari, dealing with the consolidation of relations between Egypt and Nigeria. The message was forwarded by the Nigerian ambassador in Cairo during his meeting today with President Mubarak. The ambassador said the message contains Gen Buhari's greetings to President Mubarak on the New Year.

Mubarak Congratulates Ceausescu on Birthday

NC261047 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent the following congratulatory cable to Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, on the occasion of his birthday:

I am pleased to convey to Your Excellency sincerest heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your brithday, wishing you a long life, good health, and happiness. My sincerest greetings to you personally, along with my wishes for the Romanian people's further progress and advancement.

My best regards and esteem.

Australia's Hayden Departs Cairo 26 Jan

NC261042 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden left Cairo for Sinai this morning, winding up a 4-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, Hayden was received by President Husni Mubarak and held discussions with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The Australian foreign minister will visit today with the Australian contingent in the Sinai. He will resume his tour of Middle East states tomorrow, which includes stops in Israel, Jordan, and Syria.

Finnish Official Arrives in Cairo 26 Jan

NC261132 Cairo MENA in English 1115 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, Jan 26 (MENA) — The Finnish foreign under secretary arrived here today from Jidda on a four-day visit to Egypt for talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan 'Ali. He was welcomed, upon arrival, by Director of the Foreign Ministry's Cultural Relations Department 'Ali Shawqi. Finland has contributed a contingent to the Multinational Peace Keeping Forces and observers in Sinai.

Yugoslav Defense Minister To Visit 30 Jan

NC251510 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jan (MENA) — Belgrade's MENA correspondent has learned that Admiral Branko Mamula, Yugoslav federal secretary for national defense, will begin an official visit to Egypt next Monday. The visit is in response to an invitation that has been extended by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, minister of defense and war production.

AL-AHRAM Views Ways to Solve Area Problems

PM251040 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Jan 84 pp 1, 3

[Part II Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "We, the United States, and the Arabs"]

[Excerpts] At the outset we can say that there is a "retreat" or a semiretreat in U.S. policy toward the Middle East and Palestinian problem. Because, despite the fact that the Palestinian problem is enjoying a greater understanding in the United States and the United States is more aware that this problem is the essence of the Middle East conflict, and that comprehensive peace and stability cannot be achieved without a just solution to the Palestinian problem — despite this significant progress in the U.S. view of the problem of the area, U.S. efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace are in no way commensurate with what the United States can actually do or with its ability to influence the most important parties to the conflict, bearing in mind its special and distinguished relations with Israel.

Reagan's initiative was an important practical step on the road to a realistic peace in relation to the Palestinian problem, but Israel's strong rejection and the incomprehensible U.S. failure to persuade Israel to accept it caused the plan to be shelved. The U.S.'s unjustifiable and illogical refusal to enter into any dialogue or direct contact with the PLO also greatly reduces U.S. ability to lend momentum to a solution. It is unacceptable for the United States to submit its views for solving a problem without any dialogue or contact taking place between it and those directly concerned with the problem regarding ways and means of implementing the solution. It is also unacceptable for the United States to ask one party to concede everything, including denying its own existence, as it is asking the PLO to do, in return for nothing.

Therefore, it was natural for Egypt, during its contacts with the United States and the various countries, to stress the need for initiating a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, particularly in view of the recent developments and emergence of a moderate and realistic Palestinian trend with which dialogue can be initiated, beginning from a small area of agreement and progressing toward a wider scope of agreement.

It was natural for Egypt to concentrate its efforts on stressing the danger of missing this opportunity, because missing it will only strengthen extremism and intransigence and to this trend overwhelming the Palestinian movement. That will achieve nothing except to cause deadlock and indefinitely postpone the opportunity of finding a just and lasting peace — a situation Israel is doing all it can to realize.

We can also say that there is something of a U.S. retreat in the efforts required from a peace partner to give momentum to the autonomy negotiations. These negotiations began in 1979 and faltered shortly thereafter. The United States made no effort to activate them, except in 1982, when it forwarded Reagan's proposals, which soon froze because of Israeli rejection.

We can add that the United States is turning a blind eye to Israel's intention to swallow the West Bank and Gaza. The United States is definitely aware of the Israeli tactic of freezing attempts to reach a solution and playing for time so as to plant more settlements and complete its plan of demographic changes in the West Bank and Gaza in order to finally annex them.

We can also say that there is U.S. "foreknowledge" of the details of a new-old Israeli plan to shape the situation in the area in accordance with its concepts. Features of that plan include the following steps:

Israel's redeployment of its forces in southern Lebanon to the Al-Awwali River which aims to achieve its final objective in invading Lebanon, to finally separate the south from the rest of Lebanon, ensure the security of the Israeli Galilee, and secure Lebanese fresh water sources for Israel. In addition, Israel will have control of Al-Baruk Mountain which overlooks Damascus at a distance of only 26 km, and its forces will continue to have the freedom to carry out reconnaissance or repressive operations.

Israel is continuing to take steps to impose Israeli laws on the Gaza and West Bank settlements, which indicates that total Judaization will come before the end of this year or even earlier, that is, if the U.S. and Arab attitudes remain negative.

In the midst of all these developments the United States is doing nothing more than issuing statements, particularly recently and in response to the strong reaction to the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement. These statements reiterate the United States' commitment to the peace process and to reactivating the Reagan plan, which is frozen in the Israeli refrigerator, and that it is preserving its traditional friendship with some of the moderate Arab states.

Egypt has actually received such assurances. It recently received assurances from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that there is a need to move during 1984 — the year of dangers. It also received assurances from him that the United States believes that solving the Palestinian problem is the basis for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem.

We have actually received all of these assurances, but what comes next? When will the United States translate these assurances into practical and realistic steps toward achieving a solu More precisely, when will it begin its efforts to implement its frozen initiative? When will it begin using real influence to end those Israeli practices that hinder efforts to a solution and put its initiative into effect, as well as to shoulder its responsibility as a peace partner? Despite everything, the United States has thus far been unable to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon as a basic step toward a solution to the area's problems. The U.S. forces in Lebanon have lost their neutral character to a large extent by intervening against certain parties in the Lebanese arena. The United States is now facing strong pressure to withdraw those forces before their presence can contribute to bringing about an Israeli withdrawal or stability in Lebanon.

Even more serious is that while the United States has been attempting to boost the strength of the Lebanese Army, it has ignored the nationalist forces opposed to Phalangist control. That is contributing to a continuation of the civil war and to growing doubts over the capability and effectiveness of the U.S. forces in Lebanon. We are expecting much from the peace partner during this decisive year in order that the situation does not continue to deteriorate and that Israel does not achieve the objectives of its plans. We want the peace partner to play an active and effective role in persuading Israel to accept the Reagan plan.

We want the United States to change many of its assumptions on how to deal with the Palestinian problem, so that a solution will become a possibility. The U.S. assumption is basically that 'Arafat should give King Husayn full power to commence negotiations in conjunction with Palestinian elements from the West Bank and Gaza. In his present circumstances 'Arafat is unable of any such thing without reorganizing the PLO and regaining his full ability to act. King Husayn on his part insists on a mandate before approaching the negotiations. He is somewhat concerned over the idea of a Palestinian government in exile and the possibility of Yasir 'Arafat's withdrawal from the dialogue at any time, as he did on the last occasion. For its part Israel refuses to deal with the PLO, whether or not it recognizes Security Council Resolution 242 and whether or not it recognizes Israel.

On the other hand, it is now quite clear to us that there is no alternative to a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue for reaching a suitable formula that will enable the Palestinians to take a step toward self-rule. Although we say that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, this does not mean — at present, at least — that it alone should enter into negotiations with Israel. We all should contribute to paving the way for the Palestinians to reach a solution through negotiations and support their negotiating stand. In this regard we can say that Egypt must participate in this process alongside the Palestinians and Jordan. Its participation will in no way weaken the PLO's strength or position; on the contrary, when Egypt negotiated with Israel it asked the United States to be a partner in the negotiations with the aim of achieving a just solution. When Egypt enters as a partner with the Palestinians in the negotiation process,this is bound to effectively contribute to strengthening the Palestinians' negotiating position. With its political, demographic, and strategic weight, Egypt is a factor of strength in favor of the Palestinian side.

Finally, when Egypt offers its participation to the Jordanians and Palestinians in supporting their negotiating position, that can only mean that it wishes to stand on the side of the Jordanians and Palestinians to achieve a just solution and exert maximum efforts to achieve that solution.

This stand is quite contrary to that of Syria, which neither serves the cause nor contributes to the solution because it only seeks to pit the resistance factions against one another and incite the Lebanese communities against each another. This is in addition

to standing against Jordan and its efforts. In all this Syria is neither seeking a solution nor helping to achieve it.

If Jordan and the Palestinians were to achieve the desired formula, they would face another obstacle, which is securing the Arab summit's blessing and approval. It is customary for Arab summit resolutions to be unanimously adopted. We know for certain that certain Arab countries continue to cling to the old slogans and stands, while others do not want a practical solution to the problem. Those countries oppose this formula even before their leaders read it, as they did with the Camp David agreements. They will oppose any step on the road to a solution.

As a precaution King Husayn has asked that from now on summit resolutions should be adopted by majority and not unanimous vote. His demand is shared by many Arab leaders who represent the majority of Arab countries or silent majority of the Arab nation. Nevertheless, we believe that it will be difficult to adopt such resolutions at the meetings of the upcoming Arab summit.

In light of all these facts, and of the catastrophes that will befall us because of these complications and the slowness of action in confronting the dangers menacing us, we continue to believe that because 'Arafat has been deprived of the military option by Syria and the dissidents, the only alternative is for this desired formula to be worked out by the Palestinians and Jordanians, and for the Arabs to support it, as long as it represents a Palestinian-Jordanian option based on the will of the Palestinian people who are under occupation and suffering daily. All these difficulties make it incumbent on the United States to reappraise the situation and seek to create a new situation that will enable it to deal with all elements of the crisis and serve progress toward the desired solution. This certainly requires important changes in the U.S. appraisal of Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian and Egyptian roles.

We ask this of the United States. We do not say that we ask it of Israel, because Israel will not volunteer to change the situation and pave the way to a comprehensive solution as long as it is the only one to benefit by stalemating the efforts toward a solution and maintaining the status quo until it completes its plan to annex the West Bank and Gaza.

We ask this of the United States as a friend and partner, and as the international party that, through its special relations with Israel, is capable of contributing to the achievement of peace, restoring rights, and ensuring stability. But, on the other hand, we realize that nothing serves our cause more than showing oursolidarity as Arabs and joining our efforts to achieve a solution. Nothing serves it more than an active and concerted Arab effort to achieve the common objective.

AL-AHRAM on 'Contradictions' in Israel

NC260704 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 26 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-AHRAM* expresses its opinion that Israel is the country of contradictions. According to international criteria and statistics, it could be considered a prime example of contradictions within a country.

The paper says: We can prove this by looking at the political situation and not only by looking at figures. Reports say themajority of the inhabitants of occupied south Lebanon, where there is a large Israeli presence, have staged sit-ins in mosques to protest the continuing Israeli arrests, and particularly the detention of a Shi'ite religious figure.

AL-AHRAM draws attention to the fact that Israeli authorities have, on the other hand, only permitted Israelis to organize demonstrations against the visit of German Chancellor Kohl to Israel. These demonstrations were requested by those who escaped death at the Nazi camps and by some Herut Party youth. In other words, Israel permits something here and forbids it there. Demonstrations and sit-ins, even inside mosques, are forbidden. However, demonstrations against a foreign visitor are permitted and organized for a reason known only to Israel.

Air Force Overflies Iranian Towns 26 January

JN261504 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA) — Formations of Iraqi fighter planes today flew over a number of Iranian towns, seaports, and vital installations. This was announced in a statement by an Iraqi military spokesman. The spokesman said that these raids and missions [as received] affirm the ability of Iraq and the Iraqi Air Force to reach any target deep inside Iran. They are also a warning to the Iranian regime that any attempt on its part to commit aggression against Iraq will be boldly and firmly repulsed.

The spokesman pointed out that between 1352 and 1401 today, the Iraqi planes overflew the towns and ports of (Milkabad), Saruq, ('Ashtaian Qum), (Naramada), Baba Jan, Tehran (Shal), (Kazavan), Zeydabad, Khurramabad, (Ali Abad), Bander-e Khomeyni, Mashahir, Ahvaz, Veysian, Khark Island, Bushehr, and Bushehr port. He said that all Iraqi fighter planes returned safely to base after carrying out their missions.

The spokesman also said that Iraq is able to employ other suitable weapons at the appropriate time and place in order to deter the invading aggressors and destroy their evil, expansionist dreams.

The spokesman said that the Khomeyniite clique should expect further deterrent, strong Iraqi blows in order to stop its path of war, expansion, and aggression.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,352

JN251701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA) — Iraqi forward units have killed 17 Iranians in the operational sectors and wounded others; 2 infantry positions, 2 hardware stockpiles, and 2 observation posts have been destroyed.

Iraqi military communique No 1,352 issued here this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that Sayyid Sadiq, (Shandari), and Ash-Shihabi and its suburbs were shelled today, damaging several civilian installations. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,352 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With unique courage, our intrepid Armed Forces continue their valiant activities against the forces of the clique of rancor and aggression ruling in Iran. The results yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite their positions in the central sector of the battlefield with all types of weapons, killing 15 Iranians, wounding others, and destroying 1 infantry position, 1 hardware stockpile, and 2 observation posts.

2. Our forward units shelled an enemy troop concentration opposite their positions east of Basra, killing one Iranian and destroying one hardware stockpile.

3. One Iranian was killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

4. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were killed in the Maysan sector.

5. The treacherous Iranian regime today shelled Sayyid Sadiq, (Shandari), and Ash-Shihabi and its suburbs, damaging several civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, on 25 January 1984

Jordan's AR-RA'Y Interviews Ramadan 25 Jan

JN260825 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jan 84 pp 1, 20

[Lamis Anduni's dispatch]

[Text] Amman, *AR-RA'Y* — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, has said that Iraq supports His Majesty King Husayn's call for adopting the principle of majority rather then unanimity at Arab conferences, whether on the summit or other levels.

In an exclusive statement to *AR-RA'Y* and *JORDAN TIMES* before leaving Amman yesterday evening, Ramadan said that Iraq supports the views of those who call for the adoption of resolutions which reflect the opinion of the majority, provided that these resolutions are not imposed on the opposing minority.

He added that Iraq is ready to confront any new Iranian aggression. Commenting on Iranian officials' statement that Iran is getting ready to deal a final blow, he said that these statements are not the first of their kind.

Ramadan declined to comment on reports that Iraq will hit the Iranian Khark Island, but said that the way Iraq will confront the expected Iranian offensive will be determined when the time comes.

He said that Iraq supported the ICO's decision to return Egypt to the organization. He described the resolution passed in this regard as very useful. He said that Iraq hopes the next Arab summit will study the topic of Egypt and give Egypt its right to play its role as an Arab country.

Commenting on reports that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will shortly visit Iraq, Ramadan said that the Iraqi Government has no such information. However, he added that Iraq welcomes any Arab official who wants to visit Iraq.

Asked what Iraq expects from the forthcoming Arab summit, Ramadan said: We cannot coordinate matters, but there should be a minimum level of Arab solidarity so that the Arabs can come out with some results. However, we do not envisage this at the moment.

Asked if the current situation allows for realizing a just and peaceful settlement of the Palestine question, Ramadan said: Several sides are involved with this issue. Any solution that is not

based on the Arabs' ability and capabilities will not lead to the aspired results. He added that the Arabs must demonstrate solidarity in order to enhance their capabilities.

He did not confirm or deny reports that Iraq has received a shipment of sophisticated Soviet-made SS-20 [as published] missiles, but said that the Soviet-Iraqi relations are improving.

Ramadan Returns; Makes Statement

JN252051 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and his delegation returned here tonight following a short visit to Jordan.

In a statement to INA, Ramadan expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials, results that serve the interests of both countries. He said that the Jordanian king reaffirmed the support of the Jordan Government and people for Iraq in its war against Iran, and the importance of uniting Arab ranks in order to confront the challenges and conspiracies to which the Arab nation is subjected. He noted that he concluded a memorandum of understanding with Jordan's Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat in the field of economic cooperation and trade exchange between Iraq and Jordan.

Talks With Jordan on Aqaba Pipeline Anticipated

JN252027 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Amman this morning. Before leaving Baghdad, Ramadan said that the purpose of his visit to Jordan is to strengthen Jordanian-Iraqi relations. However, observers say that the talks will deal with oil and transportation. The delegation accompanying Ramadan is comprised of Minister of Oil Qasim Ahmad Taqi, and the under secretary from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

In the sphere of land and air transportation, there are many Jordanian-Iraqi agreements. Nothing new is expected in this sphere, simply confirmation of past agreements — particularly with the advent of a new Cabinet in Jordan.

There are three points in the oil sphere. The first deals with the Iraqi teams that are carrying out oil exploration operations in Jordan's Al-Qatranah area. The second point deals with oil trucks transporting Iraqi oil through Jordan. An agreement on this issue was disclosed last October. The third point, which is the most important point, deals with installing an oil pipeline that will reach Aqaba port and will have a capacity of approximately 1 million barrels a day.

Former Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced early last year that there are Iraqi-Jordanian contacts concerning the installation of an Iraqi oil pipeline to Aqaba port. Mudar Badran said at the time that joint committees had achieved large strides in this respect, and that the project to install this pipeline would be implemented soon. Has the time come for its implementation? The reply to this question will be made during Taha Yasin Ramdan's visit to Jordan.

Vice President Receives Nigerian Envoy

JN251838 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Nigerian President Mohamed Buhari on developing relations between the two friendly countries.

Brigadier General Mohamed Nasko, Nigerian President Buhari's envoy to President Saddam Husayn, delivered the message to Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf when the latter received him here this evening.

The Nigerian envoy reiterated Nigeria's eagerness to promote relations between the two countries, and expressed the Nigerian command's hope that the Iraqi-Iranian war will end.

Ma'ruf reviewed Iraq's stands and policy calling for ending the war and settling the dispute through peaceful means, as well as Iraq's respoonse to the calls and efforts by international quarters and organizations to end the war.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf and the Nigerian ambassador in Baghdad.

The Nigerian envoy arrived here yesterday evening.

Envoy Delivers Message, Departs

JN260849 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA) — Brigadier General Mohamed Nasko, member of the Nigerian Supreme Military Council, left Baghdad for home today after delivering a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Muhammadu Buhari, chairman of the Supreme Military Council.

Text of King Husayn's BBC TV Interview

JN251044 Amman JORDAN TIMES English 25 Jan 84 pp 4, 5

["Text" of interview with King Husayn by BBC correspondent Tom Mangold for "Panorama" program — recorded in Amman on 19 January]

[Text] Mangold: Your Majesty, I think first of all your friends and well wishers want to be reassured by you that you are well-recovered and fit once again.

A. Thank you very very much indeed and I can never thank my many friends throughout the world that were so kind to me during this personal crisis I went through. I feel very very much better and, apart from the future cups [as published] might require in a short space of time I am fully recovered.

Q. Can I ask you now, are we in the process of witnessing a new diplomatic offensive led by you, aimed at producing the framework for negotiations with Israel over the future of the West Bank?

A. I do not believe that there is a diplomatic offensive that can be described as such at the moment. But I would like to say very frankly that in the face of the challenge to the very existence of the Palestinians in terms of their lives and Jordan as well, who are directly confronted by a real serious danger, we are trying to reorganise ourselves in a way that will enable us to look at all options and to act in whatever way we can in the future in the best interest of what we believe is a just cause affecting people of their rights before the future of this entire ara.

Q. You talk about reorganisation. This must begin clearly with a firm political relationship between yourself and Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; has he yet indicated whether he now would support you in any new approach to the Israelis over the future of the West Bank?

A. We are very hopeful that within a very short space of time we will have some meetings with the PLO, the legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, the PLO which is free of the pressures exerted on some by forces in the area and forces in this world, and I hope that these meetings will produce good results. I believe that in the present this happens [as published]; I don't see that one should be anything but optimistic in this regard.

Q. Were you optimistic last year when you failed to get Yasir 'Arafat's agreement for an approach to the Israelis? What has changed now that gives you fruther sense of optimism?

A. Let's look at it another way. The Israelis are moving very rapidly towards totally absorbing and controlling the occupied territories. There are plans to re-allocate people to the Jordan Valley; there are plans to introduce Israeli law in terms of land in the West Bank; the situation there is one of almost a despair as far as people are concerned. The situation in Lebanon is very ominous; I believe tragically that Lebanon is all but totally divided and again, the situation that threatens over 300,000 Palestinians living there since 1948 over the years took past. [sentence as published] Even in the Gulf the economic conditions are forcing many to leave and return here. We are threatened and Israel has attempted over a long period of time to say that the Palestinian problem could be resolved on other than Palestinian soil. All these are sufficient reasons for us to sit together and to work out a plan to face up to this challenge because after all the Palestinian rights are on Palestinian soil and we have a direct responsibility both Jordanians and Palestinians alike to act in a concerted effort to bring our case and cause before the world in an adequate manner and to act to save our people and save their rights before it's too late. These are realities and we have to face up to the best horribilities [as published] and I don't believe that the time or the facts as they stand permits or would permit anyone to escape from them.

Q. So what you are saying, you are running out of time.

A. Of course we are running out of time.

Q. What would you say to Yasir 'Arafat; his visit to Amman is predicted as imminent. What would you say when he comes here and resume discussions with him that failed last year?

A. I will say that I hope that all the experiences that we have passed through led us to a point where we can resume our responsibility towards our people. After all, the PLO is a Palestinian Liberation Organisation. Whether decisions that could be for its existence except to work to identify with the wishes and hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people who are appealing for action, who are threatened and as far as we are concerned, we are involved in this problem more so than any in the entire area; it is time for us to sit together and work in total freedom of pressures in the best interests of the people of Palestine and the best interests of the people of Jordan and in the interest of establishing a just and durable peace in the area. [sentence as published] So it is time we look at all options, that we've got to act together, that we work to achieve our objectives that we have been attempting to achieve for a long period of time indequately in the past in a different way.

Q. Will you say to them, Your Majesty, and if you do you won't say it in the simplistic and vulgar way as this group; will you say to him: Chairman 'Arafat, you simply have no other choice, but to go down the moderate path and to seek peace and to let me represent your interests when I talk to the Israelis. Will you say something like that to him?

A. I think I will be very frank and candid with him when he comes over and I'm sure that he also will be very frank with me, and I hope that the time has come for us to really act in a responsible manner. I believe that this week, in any event we will give it our best effort.

Q. Can he speak totally for the Palestinians or are they divided and demoralised beyond rapair?

A. I do not believe that the overwhelming majority of the Palestinians are divided; they seek a just solution to the problem, the recovery of their rights on their legitiamte soil. At the same time those who represent them represent their hopes and aspirations adquately and I hope that this will happen.

Q. So, are you really saying that this is historically the most important moment for the PLO to move?

A. I think it is and it's a great opportunity for them as well which may not be repeated again in the future.,

Q. And that's the message you'll be hammering on to Chairman 'Arafat when he comes?

A. I'll do so.

Q. Are you, Your Majesty, prepared to negotiate with the Israelis on the basis of Camp David?

A. No. I never accepted that nor would I do it in any event without Palestinian support, but as far as Camp David is concerned we never accepted it; we have been very very clear that the only way that we see for beginning towards a solution is the comidor of nature of all initiatives so far Security Council Resolution 242, which specifically states the inadmissability of seizure of territory by war and which presents a formula of the return of territory alternately for comprehensive peace. [sentence as published]

Q. Do you still favour the Reagan initiative; and if you do, can you envisage a satisfactory compromise between Camp David which you reject and the Reagan plan to allow serious negotiations to begin involving all the interested parties?

A. The formula that was applied when Egypt was involved was the return of total control of Egypt over its territory for peace; this does not apply to the West Bank and other occupied territories under the Camp David plan. There is this contradiction there that we never accepted and that's our position regarding the Camp David accords. As far as the Reagan plan is concerned, I believe that at the end it was shot down by the Israelis' rejection of it, by their answer to it, which was the intensification of the settlement activities and attempts to absorb and control the occupied territories totally by their continuous presence in Lebanon and many other actions that we see occuring in the West Bank.

Q. And shot down too by your failure to get PLO support for your enthusiasm for the plan?

A. Well, we try to look at it; but I believe there were other factors: for example the fact that the Soviets were not involved in the solution and therefore their position was negative and the Arabs were varied in views and approaches and basically the nucleus was not there; the nucleus being the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement on what should happen.

Q. So, do you still favour the Reagan initiative?

A. I believe the Reagan initiative as I described it before is a courageous attempt to deal with the problems of this area; it still has many vague areas, and I believe that it has suffered as a result of developments in the area which we have outlined, but nonetheless, we are sure time and again the president is extremely interested in this problem of this part of the world and in trying to contribute towards the establishment of a just and durable peace here. So, may be, in the future we will see some further developments as things stand.

Q. The Israelis say that the Camp David is only a gain-time: are you effectively saying that the Reagan initiative is only a gain-time as far as you are concerned?

A. Here once again, as far as we are concerned, the only gain-time is Security Council Resolution 242, which is the foundation for all the initiatives that are discussed including the Reagan plan.

Q. The Israelis won't talk to you if you speak for the PLO and that prevents you from talking to the Israelis unless you acknowledge that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of all the Palestinians. Is the re-convening of your parliament the first stage of a possible solution to what appears to be insoluble?

A. First of all as far as the PLO is concerned: The PLO as a body was established before the war of 1967. And, in that respect Jordan continued and continues to display and will continue calling into the future as a country, a democratic state, and it is very obvious that since 1951 when both East and West Banks were united, the position was made very clear that this unity does not affect final solution to the Palestinian question. So, I want to point in fact: The Palestinian problem is not the West Bank alone; the Palestinian problem is a more extensive one in terms of the rights of the people and in terms of attempts at a solution. Obviously Palestinians must be involved in a solution to their problem and the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. So, there is no contradiction between us and the PLO, the objective is one and the same and we should work together to attain the objective that is ours. As far as the Jordanian Parliament is concerned, I hope it will reflect the hopes and aspirations and feelings of the people who are represented there, Jordanians and Palestinians alike; and obviously we are bound to respect these wishes and hopes and aspirations and strive to our utmost to see they are fulfilled. But there is no contradiction between us and the Palestinians.

Q. Do the West Bankers in your Parliament generally represent the main stream of Palestinian thought and aspirations on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. And if you ask them for a mandate to negatiate with Israel would you get it and would you use it?

A. We are not crossing bridges before to each; and we're very clear; We respect the commitment that we undertook at Rabat. We recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine; we recognize our respponsibility towards Palestine and the Palestinians and particularly people in the West Bank and the occupied territories. We will therefore concentrate on trying to achieve understanding, co-operation between us and the Palestinians as the people most directly affected by this problem and from then we will move to the Arab arena not to tell our brethren that we wish them to help us to get advice, but to tell them that we, the people immediately concerned, feel that this or that or the other option is worth our looking at and we need their support and help and we look them and see what could be done and hopefully will be in a better position to face the challenge than we had been in the past.

Q. Your Majesty, there are some people who will see that as a very delicate answer; so let me just ask you to accept a hypothesis which is that you failed to reach an agreement with Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO whenever he comes to Amman, which one has called imminent; if you went then to the Palestinian representatives within your own parliament and asked for a mandate to negotiate on their behalf and they gave it to you, would you use it?

A. I will definitely look at what people wish me to do and see what could be done; but [I] would not wish at this stage in all sincerity to respond in a manner that represents a threat to the PLO. I am not a threat to them, nor does my country. We are involved in facing up to a challenge and want to work out the best way to face it adquately together.

Q. But it is a possibility?

A. I do not see that this possibility is there at a distance; I see that logic and commonsense would dictate on all of us Jordanians and Palestinians alike to come together at this time.

Q. It would be unwise of Yasir 'Arafat not to feel that is a possibility in the future?

A. Well, Yasir 'Arafat has a choice and I Hope he ....???

Q. Can you believe that Prime Minister Shamir and his Likud coalition at least want the West Bank settlements with you?

A. I do not believe this to be the case; no.

Q. Has there been any what the Americans like to call back-channel communications between your government and his government at all?

A. No.

Q. Have there been any signs from Israel that they seek a compromise or they seek a settlement?

A. Well, they have stressed again that they are willing to enter negotiations without preconditions; but based on the fact that they consider the whole of Palestine their territory and their domain and if this is the case, then obviously I do not see that there is a chance to begin to think.

Q. Prime Minister Shamir said to me that [if] only King Husayn would simply come and talk; there are no preconditions; everything can be talked about if he would simply come and talk to us. Why don't you simply go and talk?

A. How can we in the face of their declared position of considering the West Bank a part of Israel in terms of what they call Judaea and Samaria, and Jerusalem.

Q. Well, that's only a naming position, isn't it like saying that the West Bank people will receive autonomy after five years and the final status is yet to be discussed; why is that prospect so unacceptable to you?

A. Because the only formula that could work is total withdrawal for total peace; they have no right to determine what the future of the West Bank is; that is sovereign territory belonging to a sovereign people; it should be returned to it. And, if this is not possible, I cannot see that, realistically speaking, that the Israelis are offering anything that is worth looking at.

Q. Do you believe that negotiations with the Labour Party, were they to achieve power in Israel, would be more successful, more fruitful?

A. I really can't tell; one sees some differences between the positions of these parties; one would hope that the differences may reflect some change in the public opinion there and if this is the case, hopefully, this is a positive development, if we speak in general.

Q. Mr. Rabin, who is not the leader of the party, but was the prime minister, has told us that the preface of the West Bank could be returned to Jordan immediately and he seems far less insistent on demanding that you must never speak for the PLO; does it give you any cause for optimism that he says this?

A. This is an interesting development which is hopefully not a personal opinion but as you described it a feeling on the part of the Israeli people; and, if this is the case, one hopes that this trend will continue until it matures into a reasonable responsible position.

Q. Your Majesty, if there were to be a settlement on the West Bank, what would you do with the Jewish settlements?

A. So obviously I'm not in power to negotiate on this state, on this matter; but argue they clear that these settlements are illegal in the occupied territories and we have always felt for very long that the creation of every new settlement there has been the creation of an obstacle in the path of any eventual peace. [sentence as published] I believe that the element of reciprocity ought to be introduced into any final comprehensive peace in the area in regard to such issues as security, for example; this is not one-sided; it can never be one-sided. Got to be a situation that recognises the rights of both sides; settlements basically are illegal, but then we are talking about a solution to the entire Palestinian problem, there is also the question of Arab properties in Israel itself and I hope that all this would interest everybody.

Q. Would they need, Haj Rashad ash-Shawwa was saying to me that he thought the answer would be to allow the settlements to stay but to live under Arabic law, under Jordanian law, would you find that a possible good idea?

A. I can't say very much more than that the settlements as such are illegal.

Q. Could Jews and Arabs live in peace on the West Bank?

A. Not on the West Bank separately, but certainly in a context of peace; if there is a just peace that we seek for, the entire area could be transformed and I think people on both sides may enjoy much they haven't ever seen or experienced.

Q. Speaking about West Bank opinions seem to favour the confederation plan; a confederation between two states; one with a strong Palestinian entity and Jordan. First of all, do you favour that plan; and secondly if you do, how could you convince Israel that she need not feel threatened by such a confederation on her borders?

A. First of all, I have always favoured at least a possible co-operation between two entities; I Think there is an attachment to an entity to identity both here in Jordan by Jordanians and on the Palestinian dimension by Palestinians; within the context of the family to which we belong, and it was a suggestion I made even in the seventies that there were three options: either total independence, which may not be as realistic as people feel this to be the case and want. In fact even the PNC took a decision a while ago along these lines, or this sort of balanced relationship that we hope we will develop or evolve; or return to what existed before. The best choice is obviously balanced relationship, a concept that would be acceptable and satisfying to any Palestinian and any Jordanian for all times to come; I hope this is what eventually we will work out. So this is the question.

Q. How do you convince Israel under its present government and its present rule that such an arrangement would not be a threat to her internal security, bearing in mind, Sir, that you have yet to recognize the State of Israel?

A. The recognition of the state of Israel is implicit in our acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242; the question is what State of Israel, and, right now, as you well kn.w Israel is now in possession of the whole of Palestine, plus territories belonging to other Arab states. And, in return, obviously, Arab rights have to be recognized, the question of peace; peace is a state of mind, security is a state of mind it is born of peace; if peace and justice are assured, this is the best guarantee that all in the area can live in peace and security.

Q. When you next see Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, will you be talking to him about a point that is consistently raised in Israel, which is the convenant of the PLO which calls for the destruction of the Zionist State of Israel and the PLO use of terrorism; will you advise them to drop this part of their covenant and would you advise Mr. 'Arafat to renounce terrorism?

A. I believe that the Palestinians given a chance, given their rights would naturally renounce these approaches, which were forced upon them by the truth of the denial of their existence and any of their rights. It is very sad to see what is happening there, but on the other hand it is very similar to what you have experienced in Europe for example when under occupation in World War II. Some people may call it terrorism, some people may call it resistance to occupation but it's born of the tragic situation that has existed for long. Once that is resolved, I believe that all the situation could change very basically. As for the convenant I don't believe that was 'Arafat responsibility to have it put together; it was that something which he inherited and which existed from many years before. Unfortunately, it is due to the Palestinian strong feelings in terms of their rights on their soil; but much has changed over the years; if there is a break towards a solution I believe that a lot will change.

Q. Do you advise them to take that article out of the covenant?

A. I'll talk to him about all aspects of the problem and ....

q. Do you believe that he should take it out now?

A. The answer to that is that the PLO as such feels that they have to ask: What do the Palestinians get in return? This is their answer consistently and I believe that it is justified under those circumstances; but obviously we will discuss the subject and see what can be done.

Q. How was the 'Arafat-Mubarak rapprochement? Does it help you in your efforts to find peace in the Middle East?

A. Egypt is a very important part of the Arab World. I believe that Egypt cannot afford to turn its back to the rest of the Arab family in the same way as the Arab family cannot turn its back to Egypt. And the years that passed in terms of the break of ties with Egypt are lost years and have not helped because a just and durable peace cannot be reached by solving part of the problem and leaving the rest unattended. But the development that we saw in terms of the meeting between 'Arafat and President Mubarak was a very positive development and a natural one and we foretold it and hope that will be a step in the right direction of what is going to work.

Q. Can we expect a rapprochement if you like between yourself and President Mubarak? Could you be the first Middle East leader to welcome him in the fold?

A. We have the closest contact and the closest relations and he has my admiration and respect and my sympathy for all the problems he faces, and I hope that the time will come very soon when the relations will be resumed.

Q. Could you then be the first Arab leader to welcome President Mubarak back into the Arab fold?

A. I would wish nothing more than for the circumstances to arise when that might be possible, yes.

Q. So you are saying that it's a possibility?

A. It's not only a possibility, it's inevitable.

Q. And in terms of time — perhaps this year?

A. One doesn't know, but I hope that at the earliest opportunity Egypt and the Arab family will come together.

Q. As you view Israel over the years, Your Majesty, what changes have you detected in the nature of the state.

A. They are more militant, more belligerent, more reliant on force, less concerned with world public opinion, less concerned with morals in terms of the justifications for their actions and this is really very distressing to watch.

Q. Do you believe there can be any serious movement towards peace withgout a further effort on the part of the United States to help you?

A. I believe the United States has a moral responsibility. We were very distressed recently to see a development of our relationship which is akin to a treaty between the United States and the State of Israel. In other words, when you have two separate powers linked to two belligerents in ties of the type that we see, this obviously makes it alsmot impossible to see how for example, the Lebanese problem could be reolved or settle the Palestinian one which is the root cause of instability in the area as a whole. We hope, certainly, that the United States will play a role, and a positive role, and others in the world as well.

Q. Unlikely to happen in an election year?

A. Maybe not, but maybe people would have the vision and the courage to act, regardless of whether election year is in the process or otherwise.

Q. On your own side Sir, on the Arabic side, what did you mean when you referred earlier this week to the circle of infested palaysis regarding the Arab approach to West Bank negotiations?

A. Not only West Bank negotiations. In regard to any action that we can take. We speak of the lack of credibility of others in the world but I believe that very seriously and with deep regret that we are losing our credability if we haven't lost it altogether. We are tied down to this concept of a concensus ... and it doesn't work. It is very easy for the minority to block any progress on any issue and this is something that has got to be rectified.

Q. If you have a chance, you would just wish to go ahead on your own carrying the mainstream of Palestinian opinion with you?

A. No, we would certainly rely very heavily on Arab support and we hope that this will exist and manifest itself realistically in the future between Palestinians and Jordanians and then the Arab World.

Q. But that is just what is not happening.

A. On the Arab side, as it was in the case of the PLO. Again they were seeking consensus and they were paralysed to act whereas a majority may have had a different approach and this may manifest itself in the future as well. Within the Arab League, the Arab summits, again the same problem has occurred. So what we are saying is that the majority ought to have a chance to formulate policy and I hope that this will occur.

Q. Do I detect, Sir, finally, I spoke to you a year ago, I thought you were rather optimistic then, I detect today, perhaps a greater note of resignation in your voice — am I right or wrong?

A. No Sir, the challenge is still there, we are determined to face it to the best of our ability.

Q. And you remain optimistic?

A. Maybe there isn't much to get one to feel optimistic but things couldn't get any worse and so they have got to get better.

Q. And in terms of time finally, Your Majesty, how much time is left as far as the West Bank is concerned before there will be nothing left to negotiate about?

A. Not much time, Sir, not much time.

Thank you very much indeed.

King Husayn, Iraq's Ramadan Hold Talks

JN251654 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received at An-Nadwah Palace this afternoon Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister. The Iraqi official brought a message to the king from President Saddam Husayn that included best wishes to his majesty and expressed happiness for the king's recovery from his recent indisposition.

During the meeting, Ramadan explained recent developments in the military situation on the Iraqi-Iranian front. Both the king and Ramadan reviewed the general Arab situation and issues and events that the Arab world is encountering. They also discussed the close bilateral relations and cooperation in all fields between the two brotherly countries. The two sides stressed their concern about strengthening consultation and coordination between the two countries in order to serve the Arab nation's issues and to fulfill the two brother peoples' interests.

Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were, Ahmad 'Ubaydat, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister, Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; Staff Lieutenant General Zayd ibn Shamir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of trade, industry, and tourism; Dr Hanna 'Awdah, minister of finance; and Tahir Hikmat, minister of transport. Attending the meeting on the Iraqi side were Qasim Ahmad Taqi, oil minister; Sattar Firman, under secretary of transport; and Ibrahim Shuja' as-Sultan, Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

JN251916 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat and the Iraqi side led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member, met at the prime ministry this morning. They discussed matters and issues of concern in both countries and means of strengthening cooperation.

The 3-hour talks dealt with means of promoting trade exchange; increasing its volume; preserving its flow in favor of both countries, particularly in the field of common food industries; expand

ing the services that Aqaba port renders to brotherly Iraq in exporting Iraq's various products and importing its needs; and activating overland transportation, transit, and tourism between the two countries. The two sides discussed the possibility of increasing Jordanian imports from Iraq's national products, particularly fuel oil.

Ramadan and his delegation are visiting Amman at Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat's invitation in order to emphasize the continuation of cooperation and coordination between the governments of the two brother countries.

Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were the deputy prime minister and interior minister; the minister of transporation; the minister of trade, industry, and tourism; the minister of finance; and the president of the National Planning Council. Attending on the Iraqi side were the oil minister, the under secretary of transportation, the president of the oil marketing establishment, the director general of the Iraqi oil company, the Iraqi ambassador in Amman, and a number of Jordanian and Iraqi officials.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding that included what took place during the talks.

Ramadan Statement; Delegation Leaves

JN252011 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Amman this evening. Ramadan was seen off by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat; the minister of industry, trade and tourism; the ministers of transportation and finance; the governor of Amman; and other officials. Ramadan was also seen off by the Iraqi ambassador and the embassy staff. Ramadan made the following statement to our correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin recording] Our visit is within the framework of the exchange of visits held to discuss everything that will benefit and entrench the bonds of cooperation in all fields between the two countries. This visit is part of the program aimed at discussing important and basic issues with the purpose of adding something new on the road to expanding cooperation between the two countries. We agreed on all topics discussed, and we consider this visit to be a successful one in view of the readiness for cooperation that we found here and thanks to His Majesty King Husayn's directives on the topics that have been discussed. [end recording]

Qatari Foreign Minister Departs 25 Jan

JN251719 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Suhaym ibn Hamad Al Thani left Amman today following a short, 1-day visit to Jordan during which he congratulated the king on his recovery from his recent indisposition. Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chmaberlain; the Qatari Ambassador in Amman; and the embassy Staff saw him off at the airport.

Spokesman Denies Mubarak's Visit, Minisummit

JN251235 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Fu'ad Nu'aym dispatch from Amman]

[Text] An official Jordanian Information Ministry spokesman told me today that Jordan welcomes in principle any meeting among Arab leaders, but at present there is no truth to reports that President Husni Mubarak will visis Jordan shortly and meet with King Husayn in Amman. The Jordanian spokesman added that President Husni Mubarak had not asked to visit Jordan, nor has King Husayn invited Mubarak. The spokesman added, however, that Jordan is open to any meeting among Arab leaders.

On another level, the same source denied reports about a future quadrilateral summit to be held in Amman among King Husayn, President Husni Mubarak, President Saddam Husayn, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

PRC President To Make Visit in Early March

JN251240 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* — The president of the PRC is expected to pay an official visit of several days to Jordan in early March.

AR-RA'Y on U.S. Stand Toward Peace Plans

JN260802 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peace Options and the U.S. Administration," *AR-RA'Y* says: Since the declaration of the peace options presented by the Fes plan, the Soviet initiative, the Egyptian-French initiative, and even the Reagan plan, the Arabs have always welcomed every effort to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and have expressed their readiness to move in this regard. However, the positive Arab response to these options was met by Israeli rejection and rejection or lack of enthusiasm by the U.S. Administration. The Arab peace plan and the Egyptian-French initiative faced an unjustifiable lack of U.S. enthusiasm, the Soviet initiative was rejected, and the Reagan plan lacked the credibility which the U.S. Administration promised to prove by fulfilling two conditions — the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and stopping the Israeli settements in the occupied Palestinian territory. The United States then rejected an initiative by the UN secretary general which called for an international conference to solve the Palestine cause in accordance with a recommendation by the UN General Assembly.

AR-RA'Y continues: Thus, the peace options remained frozen due to the U.S. position which did not really respond to any of them. In the meantime, the Arab trend toward peace continued despite the frustrations created by the Israeli practices and the U.S. stalemate.

It is true that the U.S. Administration is still talking about the Reagan plan, and every now and then declares its adherence to it. This stand will not change the situation. The Israeli rejection which killed the [Reagan] plan continues, and Israel goes on challenging the plan by continuing to occupy Lebanon and increasing the settlements in the West Bank.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The Arabs are stressing the importance of the time factor, and no doubt the United States also realizes the importance of this factor. Therefore, if the United States continues to obstruct the peace process in the region, this means it is determined to waste time and the peace opportunity and to push the region toward dangers which the U.S. Administration cannot control or end. Peace should not be a unilateral U.S. or Israeli desire; it is the right of all the people in the region and not something to be controlled.

Commentary Urges European Role in Middle East

JN252155 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1613 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is currently visiting Israel, has affirmed that his country's efforts in the Middle East are in harmony with the EEC policy which says that peace in the Middle East is possible through mutual recognition of the right to exist for both Israel and all other countries of the region, of the right to live within secured and recognized borders, and of the Palestinian people's right to determine their future. Although Shamir did not touch on the subject that Kohl broached when they exchanged dinner speeches, Kohl's assurances nevertheless constitute an attempt to stress the role that the EEC countries can play in solving the Middle East problem. Furthermore, Israel is the best party to be reminded of the Venice declaration and of the necessary European role in achieving peace in the region.

In his speech before the European Parliament in Strasbourg, His Majesty King Husayn speculated that Europe could play a positive role in alleviating confrontation between the two superpowers and an active role in achieving peace in the Middle East — which must one be day be realized. Thus, a European role is not marginal with regard to any move aimed at achieving the region's security, peace, and stability. It is a vital and aspired role, even though the EEC countries' stands have thus far failed to achieve any progress in ending the Middle East conflict.

In this speech, the king noted the role that Europe can play — not only for the region's interests but also for the benefit of mankind — when he called on Europe to carry out positive efforta to alleviate confrontation between the United States and the USSR. Through this role, Europe can play its desired part in any move to achieve a just and durable peace in the region.

Kohl's reminding Israel of Europe's stand has come at a time when our region is in great need of any move to revive initiatives and solutions that are based on international resolutions, regional frameworks, and influential forces. Consequently, the EEC countries that have sent numerous envoys and delegations to be come closely acquainted with the Middle East conflict and the stands of the region's countries must emerge from the marginal framework of the Arab-Israeli conflict and declare their opinions and throughts on solving the region's conflict.

We have requested and are still requesting that the EEC countries employ their international weight to alleviate tension between the United States and the USSR as a first step toward paving the road for the moves that lead to solving the Middle East conflict. Establishing peace in the region requires the participation of Europe as well as of the USSR and the United States. The mistake that has been made in arranging these roles in order to solve the Middle East conflict has further complicated this conflict and expanded the scope of the Israeli aggression against the Arab world.

Briefs

Ambassador to Philippines — Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — A royal decree has been issued approving the appointment of Sa'd al-Batayinah as Jordan's nonresident ambassador to the Philippines. [Text] [Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jan 84 p 1 JN]

Al-Wazzan Meets Saudi Ambassador 25 Jan

NC251246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met with the Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad al-Kuhaymi for 1 hour and 45 minutes prior to this morning's Cabinet session. They discussed the question of kidnapped diplomat Husayn al-Farrash, the results of the Islamic summit conference, and Lebanese developments.

Ambassador al-Kuhaymi did not wish to make any comments after the meeting. He merely denied any knowledge of reports that the kidnapped Saudi consul is being held in a specific area of Beirut.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan explained that the talks were a continuation of the discussions held in Casablanca with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal. He said: Certain points were pursued during the meeting — points that will be useful in the current talks to give momentum to the salvation process that we are constantly seeking.

Al-Wazzan Briefs Cabinet on ICO Conference

NC251511 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Dispatch by correspondent Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held its weekly session today. At the beginning of the meeting, the prime minister gave a detailed oral report on the ICO Summit conference in Casablanca, expressing special thanks to His Majesty King Hassan II for the gracious attention given the Lebanese delegation and the clear support given Lebanon's views. The report also dealt with the issues raised at the conference, including the Middle East and Lebanon, and the remaining issues on the foreign ministers' conference agenda. Prime Minister al-Wazzan referred to the bilateral contacts which took place in which he explained the Lebanese situation and the necessary practical steps to extricate Lebanon from the constant whirlpool.

The Cabinet took note of the resolutions adopted at the conference, especially the remarks contained in the final statement in which the conference expressed its support for both Lebanon's independence, unity, and absolute sovereignty over all its territory, and for all of the efforts being exerted to achieve national reconciliation among the Lebanese.

The foreign minister reviewed the contacts which took place with the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers in continuation of the previous talks to facilitate the implementation of the security plan and the resumption of the national dialogue, on which Lebanon insists, in order to achieve the desired political solutions.

The Cabinet decided to hold an additional session on Saturday morning, 28 January to discuss all ad hoc and scheduled issues on the agenda.

Karami Says U.S. Policy One of Terror, Muscle

NC251907 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Tripoli, *AN-NAHAR* — Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami has accused the United States of foiling the outcome of the Geneva conference and views its announcement of a preventive plan against terrorism as "a coverup for attacking the people who have become victims of international conflict." He affirmed "that a solution cannot be imposed by force and that Lebanon's salvation can only take place through dialogue and national reconciliation."

In a statement yesterday, Karami said: "One notes the absence of an official stance and the presence of fumbling and contradiction, which make our complex crisis more complicated every day. We have not benefitted from the opportunities as we had hoped. The national resistance in the south, which the regime rejected through its signing of the [17 May] accord, is the alternative, as we have said, but it did not accept it.

"The U.S. side, upon which the regime wagered 100 percent of its efforts, has become a party and is utilizing its power and muscles against the Lebanese and Lebanon. Behind this it is planning to implement a policy to not only subdue Lebanon and attach it to Camp David but also to bring pressure on the area to conform to its policy and objectives. "Hence we hear of terrorism and terrorists and talk of kamikaze and other operations. The U.S. side speaks of a preventive plan as if it is preparing to stage more raids against our people, who have become victims of international conflict and imperialist ambitions.

"I dread to see a world superpower stooping to this level, turning its terror and threats of terror against the sons of our subdued and victimized people. It forgets that no solution can be imposed by force and that Lebanon's salvation can only take place through dialogue and national reconciliation. "The first Geneva meeting was proof of this. When we agreed it sought to foil and cut this course. It sought to foil what had been agreed upon by fabricating the security plan and tampering with facts, including sectarianism, exploiting and using them to implement its plans and ambitions. Let all know that our stand is one and will not change. Our stand, namely, is to safeguard Lebanon's unity and defend its sovereignty and Arabism. We also demand a just state and impartial regime which will seek the welfare of all Lebanese free of monopolization and hegemony."

Junblatt Letter to U.S. Embassy in Damascus

LD251348 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1258 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut, 25 Jan (KUNA) — A Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] source has said that a radio station speaking for that opposition party began test transmissions yesterday in preparation for officially commencing broadcasting on 1 February.

The source told KUNA that the chairman of the party, Mr Walid Junblatt, yesterday inaugurated the "Voice of Truth" radio station, which broadcast patriotic songs, news bulletins, and political talks.

The radio's primary news said that Mr Junblatt had sent a letter to the U.S. Embassy in Damascus yesterday in which he stressed his demand for the resignation of Lebanon's President Amin al-Jumayyil and his government.

The radio broadcast its test transmissions between 1200 and 1500 GMT yesterday afternoon, on a frequency measuring 1080 kw [as received]. The radio can be picked up between the "Voice of Arab Lebanon" and Monte Carlo Radio.

Reports of PSP Radio Inauguration Denied

NC251415 (Clandestine) Voice of Truth in Arabic to Lebanon 1314 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Several of today's newspapers have erroneously reported that Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader, yesterday inaugurated a radio called the Voice of Truth [saw al-haqq]. Out of our concern for the truth, we emphasize the following:

1. Walid Junblatt has not yet inaugurated the PSP radio, which is remains in an experimental stage. The inauguration date will be officially announced when a decision on this date is reached.

2. The radio is not called the Voice of Truth, as has been mentioned, although we are the defenders of the truth. The name, together with the official commencement of transmissions, will be announced at the proper time.

3. We urge our colleagues, particularly those in the patriotic media, to obtain information and news about us from our official sources, which they know. We hope there will be selfless and serious cooperation to serve and defend the truth, as well as to safeguard freedom and the citizens' and homeland's freedom.

Husayn al-Musawi Moves to Al-Hirmil After Threats

NC251234 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Approximately 100 Iranian revolutionary guards were recently deployed in Ba'labakk after completing special training in terrorist operations in Az-Zabadani Camp [in Syria].

It was also learned that Husayn al-Musawi and his family have moved to the Al-Hirmil area following threats from certain families in Ba'labakk over his maltreatment of several Ba'labakk residents.

More Reportage on Security Developments

Sniper Fire in Beirut

NC251421 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] A security source reports that sniper fire has been directed at the Red Shoe locality, Galerie Za'tar, and the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah-Ash-Shiyah axis [in Beirut] since 1545 today.

Clashes Continue in Suburb, Mountain

NC251522 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] A security source reported that the sniper fire on the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah axis has intensified and turned into an artillery duel. Contacts have been held for a cease-fire to go into effect at 1640 today, but gunmen have thus far not abided by it. Clashes with various types of weapons are now taking place on the axis.

It has also been reported that Army positions in the mountain in 'Bayh, Qabr Shmun, and 'Ayn Ksur are now being shelled with mortar.

Army Suq al-Gharb Positions Shelled

NC260816 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Army positions in Suq al-Gharb have been coming under intermittent mortar fire from 'Aytat for the past 30 minutes.

'Martyrs of Ba'labakk' Claim Explosion in Paris

NC252140 Paris AFP in English 2136 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, Jan 25 (AFP) — An explosion claimed by an unidentified correspondent for "The Martyrs of Ba'labakk" — the Lebanese town where Moslem extremists are believed to be headquartered — caused material damage tonight at an office in a Paris suburb of the French Aeronautics and Space Industries Company SNIAS. The explosion blasted windows and doors at the building in nearby Chatillon-sous-Bagneux, officials said.

An anonymous caller told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE headquarters here 15 minutes after the attack that "we have set off a bomb in Chatillon for the Martyrs of Ba'labakk," then hung up without giving any further details.

Warplanes of both the French and U.S. contingents with the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon late last year bombed Ba'labakk, where Iranian-backed extremist Shi'ite movements are reportedly based.

Tension With United States Seen Increasing

JN251806 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Syria is of the opinion that tension between it and the United States has exacerbated in the past few days following a relative improvement in relations between the two countires after Damascus released the U.S. pilot.

In an interview with the British paper *THE FINANCIAL TIMES* published today, Faruq ash-Shar', Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, said: We do not know why this exacerbation is taking place, an exacerbation that we are not causing. However, we have the legitimate right to wonder about who makes decisions in the United States.

Minister ash-Shar' refused to criticize President Mubarak for having received Yasir 'Arafat. Ash-Shar' said: 'Arafat is the one who went to visit Mubarak, in circumstances from which Mubarak can only win. Any person who found himself in Mubarak's place would have done the same thing. 'Arafat is really the person who must be blamed. Ash-Shar' added that everything that 'Arafat does is to avoid his domestic problems in the Palestinian arena. Ash-Shar' said: 'Arafat is adopting a course that will not lead to any recognition of any of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Ash-Shar' added that Syria will not oppose King Husayn if he succeeds in liberating the West Bank and the Gaza Strip without any preconditions. The Syrian minister said that any eventual cooperation between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat on political moves in the Middle East is doomed to failure. He added that Syria has no objection in principle to participating in an Arab summit conference to be attended by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. However, the minister expressed the belief that some problems about the Palestinian representation will inevitably arise in the summit conference, because 'Arafat has decided to play the role that Anwar as-Sadat assumed.

On Lebanon, the Syrian minister said that he does not believe that a permanent cease-fire can be implemented or that suitable security measures can be adopted until the roots of the problem which are represented in the 17 May agreement between Lebanon and Israel are eliminated.

On whether Syria is ready to agree to a UN force in Beirut to replace the Marines, Ash-Shar' said: We do not say that there must be a UN force. However, we do not reject the idea in advance, and we are willing to discuss it if it is raised. Minister ash-Shar' added: The U.S. forces must leave Lebanon, because they have become biased toward the Lebanese Army in the fighting against other Lebanese parties. Therefore, the U.S. forces have become another militia in Lebanon. Ash-Shar' reiterated Syria's concern over Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence. However, he stressed at the same time that Syria's security and political interests can only be safeguarded through the Israeli forces' unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon.

U.S. Words, Deeds Contradictory on Lebanon

JN251449 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, U.S. President Reagan considers himself to be the owner of the Lebanese house. In a message he sent to two U.S. Democrats, he speaks about Lebanon as if Lebanon were a U.S. satellite or submissive to the United States and as if the United States were the one that gives the orders and possesses the authority and soverignty in this Arab country. In his message, President Reagan did not hesitate to admit that his administration has pressured Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and other Lebanese parties. He also speaks about Syria and its relations with Lebanon as if Syria is at the North Pole and Lebanon is at the South Pole.

If we put aside President Reagan's statements — statements that show the U.S. Administration's respect for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and president — and its exploitation of the Lebanese situation in order to impose its control over the region, help Israel, and impose the unjust solutions on all Arabs, we will realize that there is a contradiction in U.S. President Ronald Reagan's message and the U.S. statements regarding the U.S. forces' objectives in Lebanon. It is known that the United States voted in the UN Security Council in favor of resolutions that denounced Israel's invasion of Lebanon and called on the Israeli invaders to withdraw from Lebanon without delay and conditions. The United States has promised to evacuate the Israeli invasion forces from Lebanon, and has even fixed dates for the evacuation of these forces.

However, the United States did not fulfill its promises, and was not sincere in setting dates for the Israelis' evacuation. On the contrary, the United States has pressured the weak side, Lebanon, and forced it to sign an agreement that would undermine its independence and sovereignty and would award the aggressor for its aggression. When one searches in President Reagan's message for the U.S. commitments to evacuate the Israeli forces from Lebanon — an evacuation which will pave the way for Lebanon's independence and sovereignty and for the resstablishment of its citizens' unity — he will not find any of these promises or commitments. However, he will realize that the U.S. Administration does not pay attention to implementing the UN Security Council resolutions and to evacuating the Israeli forces. In fact, it ignores these issues and makes the U.S. forces part of the Lebanese situation and a firm policy factor in the Lebanese arena.

In his message, President Ronald Reagan says: We simply cannot withdraw unilaterally without casting doubts on the United States' commitment to moderation and negotiations in the Middle East. These clear statements mean that the problem in Lebanon lies not only in withdrawing the Israeli forces of invasion, but also in convincing the United States to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. This also means that the United States has not helped and will not help Lebanon evacuate the Israeli forces in order to pave the way for establishing the Lebanese authority over the entire Lebanese territory. Rather, it has made it difficult for Lebanon to restore its territory, independence, and sover-

eignty, and has sought to turn Lebanese territory into a base for the U.S. military forces and war fleets.

As President Reagan says, the U.S. forces' objective is moderation and negotiations in the Middle East. Thus, the question is: What about the Israeli forces' evacuation from Lebanon? What does moderation mean between an aggressor and a victim of the aggression, between an occupier and the occupied, between a lawbreaker and the victim, and between law and crime? The call for moderation is addressed to the victims of aggression. It is a call to help the aggressor and to cover his aggression and crime. Regarding the Middle East crisis to which Reagan pointed, it actually reveals how the U.S. Administration seeks to exploit the Lebanese situation for the sake of the U.S. objectives and for the sake of making Lebanon a hostage in the U.S. hand in order to impose the U.S. will and solutions on all the Arabs.

President Reagan's statements prove that the U.S. moves are revolving in a vicious circle in order to impose control over the region, and to achieve Israel's expansionist plans and the objectives of the stragic U.S.-Israeli interests. This is what has made and is making the U.S. Administration impotent to play a positive role in achieving peace, security, and stability in the Middle East. This also refutes the U.S. credibility in Lebanon, and makes it responsible not only for giving the green light to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon but also for the continued Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the tragedies in this Arab country.

Brazilian Party Delegation Continues Visit

JN251729 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this afternoon received the Brazilian Democratic Workers Party delegation led by (Niva Moretra), deputy leader of the party. Comrade al-Ahmar briefed the delegation on the recent developments in the Arab arena, particularly on what is taking place in Lebanon and on the U.S.-Israeli designs, in cooperation with the NATO states, to impose a Zionist-U.S. hegemony over the region's states and to liquidate the people's achievements and issues.

Comrade al-Ahmar said: The presence of the U.S. fleets off the Lebanese and Syrian coasts and the strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv are preparatory measures for launching a premeditated and comprehensive aggression against Syria and Lebanon. Al-Ahmar stressed that these concentrations and fleets will not terrorize Syria or force it to capitulate. He said: Syria's role has always been and will continue to be in defense of the Arab nation's independence. Comrade al-Ahmar praised the relations of cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Brazilian Democratic Workers Party. He also praised the support of the Brazilian party and people for the Arab causes.

(Niva), head of the guest delegation, expressed thanks and appreciation to the Ba'th Party command for the hospitality accorded to him. He also expressed the delegation's pleasure with and admiration for the Syrian people's achievements under President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: We are proud of Syria's brave stand. We are convinced that you are waging a just war against imperialism and Zionism. We stand at your side and support you, because this is the same enemy that we confront in Latin America.

Damascus Reports U.S. Military Aid to Jordan

JN251308 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The U.S. ABC television network has reported that the United States will supply Jordan with new weapons, including surface-to-air missiles, at an equivalent value of $40 million and that it will soon announce its commitment to form the Jordanian rapid deployment force, which will be equipped with these weapons. The ABC network also announced that President Reagan will submit a proposal to Congress to consider these expenses as grants to Jordan.

Knesset Defeats No Confidence Motions

TA251708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1701 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The votes have just been counted in the Knesset over the no confidence motions, and as Speaker Menahem Savidor said, the motions were defeated when the two TAMI Knesset members and Minister Aharon Uzan voted along with the coalition to strike the no confidence motions from the agenda. Just one Knesset member, Yiga'el Hurvitz, a coalition member, surprisingly abstained. Thus, with a majority of 62 to 56, with 1 abstention, the motions of no confidence were defeated.

TAMI Promised Social Welfare Legislation

TA251723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1702 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that before the Knesset vote [on a motion of nonconfidence], a proposal was raised to make a commitment to TAMI to take action to accelerate legislation of the minimum wage bill, and to discuss TAMI's other demands within a fortnight. These are: increasing the allowances, and updating the tax bracket gradation.

National Religious Party faction Chairman Yehuda Ben-Me'ir objected to discussing TAMI's demands, because he said he only got the information at the very last minute and he cannot make a hasty decision. Ge'ula Kohen of Tehiya believed it preferable to hold early elections, and even a Knesset upheaval is better than submission to TAMI's demands. Avraham Shapira of Agudat Yisra'el was only prepared to promise TAMI legislation on the minimum wage bill.

Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor this evening reprimanded all Knesset members, and said that today they overdid things in the debate. As the person responsible for the Knesset's respect and honor, this is a black day, he said. The speaker has already summoned the Knesset House Committee to discuss events at the Knesset. This committee session will take place next week.

Arens Addresses Knesset Committee on Lebanon

TA241355 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1337 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today that Israel wants to get out of Lebanon but, at the same time, one could not say that time is working against us. Addressing several Alignment Knesset members, the defense minister said: "We have reached appropriate security arrangements in the Ash-Shuf area. Another element is replacing us there, and this is also how we should proceed in southern Lebanon."

Minister Arens noted that any statement about a timetable for our departure from Lebanon represents a hindrance, because it precludes any achievements. Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said he is in favor of Lebanon's partitioning, and that one should stop sitting on one's suitcases. Lebanon must be divided into zones of influence, Ben-Elisar noted.

MK Yiga'el Hurvitz said those security arrangements that are feasible should be achieved and then [we should] get out of Lebanon. This was reported by our Knesset correspondent Sha'ul Stav.

Arens on Defense Cuts, Security Issues

TA251819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Yitzhaq Golan and Eytan Haber within the weekly "News Conference" program on 25 January; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Haber] Mr Defense Minister, I would like to ask a question about the budget. At the time, many years ago, Chief of Staff Yiga'el Yadin resigned because of cuts in the defense budget, cuts that were far less extensive than those at stake at present.

[Arens] It seems to me, Eytan, that the entire budget then was tantamount to the cuts being effected today, perhaps even less.

[Haber] 'Ezer Weizman ultimately also resigned because of budget cuts. For some reason — perhaps you could explain it to us — you want, and not for the first time, to transfer responsibility to the government. Are you not shirking responsibility?

[Arens] No, that is wrong. I am not trying to transfer responsibility to the government, because in view of the type of government existing in Israel, responsibility lies with the government. Nobody has to transfer, ask for, or demand responsibility. At the time I said — and once again we see that reports carried by the media are frequently incorrect — when the first round of cuts was decided upon, during the days of former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, that I wanted to inform the government of the implications of the cuts, what the IDF would have to do in order to effect such cuts, so that before the ministers make their decisions — and a Cabinet decision is one shared by all ministers, whether it refers to education or defense — they know what it is all about.

[Golan] Do you think it is good that the government should know?

[Arens] In my opinion this is vital. We are talking about collective responsibility, and this exists in our type of government. I am also responsible for the economic policy today.

[Golan] On the issue of collectivity, there have recently been some doubts.

[Arens] Look, this is the type of government we have, you cannot change it. If we cut the education budget, maybe the man in charge, that is the education minister, is the man most familiar with the subject — but I am as responsible for this cut as he is. Therefore, I am responsible, and I am not shirking any responsibility. I assume responsibility, certainly on the issue of the

defense budget. As I told you, I feel there is almost the same measure of responsibility regarding the economic policy. It is clear to me that we cannot go on with the present situation. I said as much during Yoram Aridor's tenure and I am repeating it today. If we go on this way, we will not be able to overcome the economic crisis, and we will reach a dead end in all spheres, including the defense issue.

[Haber] How will Israel's security really be affected by these cuts?

[Arens] Security is real security. I do not make light of security in the next few years, despite the fact that what worries us is the immediate situation, something that could happen tomorrow or the day after, and our ability to stand up to the challenges of tomorrow or the day after. Therefore when dealing with the cuts, we tried to reduce this adverse effect as much as possible, because we are entrusted with the rather difficult security missions of tomorrow and the day after. It is not only a matter of preparing for a war within 3 to 5 years; we also have security problems at present. After all, part of the army is sitting in Lebanon. The lion's share of the cuts were made in the sphere of orders for the next few years, in the sphere of procurement.

[Haber] The question is whether these orders are for weapons or for blankets.

[Arens] These orders mainly deal with U.S. arms systems. On this point, as I told you, the implications in the field will only be felt within a few years, and during this interval we will have time to solve the main problems, if we indeed overcome the economic crisis.

A large part of the cuts actually mean a reduction in the U.S. aid from $1.7 billion to $1.4 billion — albeit the terms were changed since we will receive $1.4 billion as a grant, while the $1.7 billion we were to have received was 50 percent grant and 50 percent loan — but we were promised by the U.S. President that if it emerged that we were short of money, that we could not pay for something with the $1.4 billion, a way would be found to meet us halfway.

[Golan] Mr Minister, if I understood you correctly, reports in the press — about which you expressed reticence and reservations — say that the IDF soldiers will fire fewer artillery shells, that the Air Force will have fewer flight hours: Will the cuts not have an impact on these?

[Arens] The cuts will have an impact. I will depict it in a blunter manner: There can be no cuts without reducing the size of the army. Therefore, it is not just a matter of fewer shells, you can say the same about tanks and men. After all, they all go together. Rationally speaking, you cannot effect cuts in just one dimension of the system, say just in the number of shells. If you do that, you will have the same number of tanks; but they will have fewer shells to fire. Or you will have the same number of men but fewer tanks. They all go together. We would like to believe that we could effect the budget cuts by reducing the fat, but that is not the case. This is an efficient army. I am not saying that there is no waste; but if one wants to effect significant cuts, one must cut the size of the army. In other words, fewer tanks and fewer planes. As I said, as far as the immediate implications are concerned, we will have relatively small cuts in this area, but we are certainly headed that way. There is no other way.

[Golan] Mr Minister, what is the situation in southern Lebanon, in the enclave ruled by the late Major Sa'd Haddad? Is there a body there that can be trusted just as when he was alive?

[Arens] Anybody familiar with the subject probably knows that the body we trusted in that area entailed a very significant IDF involvement. Perhaps we wanted to believe, or it was nice to think, that there was an army there which the late Haddad called the army of free Lebanon. They function and defend themselves and, as a result, they also defend us. There is no doubt that Haddad was a special and courageous man. His courage was first and foremost reflected in the fact that he was ready to publicly announce that he stood by our side. There are quite a few Lebanese, not just Christians, who stand and want to stand by our side, but do not have the courage to stand up and say: We are standing by Israel. However, at the same time, this framework remains largely dependent on the assistance extended by the IDF. Nothing has changed on this issue.

[Haber] I would like to go to another current subject. The West German chancellor is currently visiting us at a time when the issue of a very large arms deal with Saudi Arabia is at stake. I do not know whether you have already spoken to him. Which arguments are you going to use to convince his excellency the chancellor not to approve such a deal? What do we have against this deal?

[Arens] Our facts are simple, correct and, I think, justified. We are opposed to any increase in the strength of the army of a government which claims that it is in a state of war with Israel. Saudi Arabia claims that it is in a state of war with us. It is building an army, and some of its units have participated in battles against the IDF. In my and our opinion, there can be nothing worse than this. There can be nothing less justified than this, that because of commercial considerations a country which presumes to be part of the community of free and democratic countries, just like Israel, is ready to put modern weapons at the disposal of an army that is in a state of war with us.

[Golan] What are the chances of persuading the German chancellor?

[Arens] I am not sure that you are asking the right man. First of all, I have not yet had the opportunity to meet him face to face, and I do not know whether I will have such an opportunity during his stay. We are waging a struggle on this issue. I do not think the matter will be decided after one meeting with the prime minister or with me. This struggle is also being waged in Germany and, incidentally, also in the United States. It is being waged by all our ambassadors and by journalists, just like you, and all the people who take part in Israel's public relations campaign to persuade the German public. West Germany is a democratic country, and the issue will ultimately be decided by public opinion there. I hope it will be possible to persuade German public opinion, especially in light of the sad and tragic history of Israeli-German relations, that it cannot do such a thing.

[Golan] Mr Minister, there are signs that President Reagan's plan about Judaea and Samaria is gaining increasing support in Jordan and Egypt. And apparently Yasir 'Arafat is also trying to join this peace initiative. What does this require from us in order not to be surprised?

[Arens] I do not think we are surprised and I am not sure that your assessment about the popularity of this plan is correct. You will probably find many people who will tell you it is obsolete and that nothing will come of it. Although it is natural that President Reagan, who initiated it, should try to revive it, I have more than once voiced my assessment that the chances of King Husayn joining the negotiating table are dim for his own reasons, not because we do not want him to. After all, we have more than once stated that we would be very happy if he came, and we would be glad to hold negotiations with him. He has not yet arrived.

[Golan] Mr Minister, why do we not apply Israeli law to Judaea and Samaria?

[Arens] We do not apply it because our undertaking in the Camp David accords actually prevents us from doing that.

[Haber] Are you in favor of applying Israeli law to Judaea and Samaria?

[Arens] Ultimately, yes. I will tell you briefly what I have said more than once. I believe that Israel's security calls for ruling over Judaea and Samaria. I think this will be the situation in the very long run. This area lies in the core of our country, it abuts on the municipal limits of our largest cities. That being the case, if this means ultimately ruling, I think this rule should be effected by applying Israeli law over the territory so that we also guarantee the rights of the citizens and inhabitants in that area.

[Golan] The Green Line has all but disappeared.

[Arens] Is that a question or a statement?

[Golan] It is a question.

[Haber] It is a statement.

[Golan] By the pace of settlement activities, land purchases, and the paving of roads, the Green Line has all but disappeared.

[Arens] The Green Line certainly does not have the same meaning to Israeli citizens, both Jewish and Arab, as the Jordan River. We cross this imaginary line, a line drawn on maps, daily. There are Jewish settlements beyond this line, but this settlement is somewhat reduced, too reduced in my opinion. This settlement movement is restricted by the resources we can allocate to it. I think the Jewish population in Judaea and Samaria at present does not constitute more than 3 percent of the entire population there. There is certainly a Jewish presence beyond this line and I think we can all be proud of it.

[Golan] You would not recommend applying this economic distress to the settlements?

[Arens] I think a distinction should be made here between political and economic considerations. The latter say we must cut our expenses in virtually every sphere. The finance minister has said as much — and I agree with him — that this also applies to the issue of settlements. However, to make a move of political significance with the same stroke, namely to announce to the world and to the Israeli population that we are henceforth freezing settlements, I think this would be a very big mistake.

Finance Minister Sees Improvement in Economy

TA250747 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Before contacts with the TAMI faction resume this morning, Finance Minister Kohen-Orgad says he will make an effort to avoid worsening the situation of people in the low income brackets. He hopes that an agreement will be reached with TAMI. The finance minister also said that the cuts made by the government in the current and next year's budgets total 130 billion shekels, out of about 800 billion shekels which make up the government's expenditures. This is a large and painful cut but absolutely necessary, the finance minister said.

Minister Kohen-Orgad also sees initial signs of lower inflation and an improvement in the trade balance. Kohen-Orgad totally rejects the idea of dollarization which was again raised by U.S. economists in Washington yesterday. The finance minister says this is unnecessary.

Defense Ministry Workers Ease Sanctions

TA251737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpt] A surprising development in the Defense Ministry: The organization of ministry workers has compiled with Minister Arens's request to prevent plants and businesses from collapsing because of the sanctions. Thus tomorrow morning the Defense Ministry's accountancy branch will review instructions from the workers' council to pay suppliers to whom the debt does not exceed 3 million shekels.

Settlement Official on West Bank, Gaza Situation

TA241918 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1840 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 24 Jan (ITIM) — The World Zionist Organization Settlement Department's budget for the year ending on 30 March is 3.5 billion shekels, after a 315 million shekel cut, which is 9 percent of the budget. The deliberations on a further 280 million shekel cut from the development budget are still underway.

The above was reported this afternoon by Department Head Matityahu Drobles during the ceremony marking the opening of the Settlement Department's regional office in Ari'el. This office will service the Judaea and Samaria residents.

Earlier, Mr Drobles, together with the newspaper editors, toured various settlement sites in Judaea and Samaria.

Mr Drobles said that of the overall settlement budget, the Golan settlements receive 21 percent; the Jordan Rift Valley 25 percent; Judaea and Samaria 42 percent; and the Gaza District 12 percent.

Mr Drobles promised that even after the budget is slashed, the campaign to set up new settlements will continue, but will have to be conducted in more moderate circumstances, such as a framework of between 10 and 15 families per settlement. He added that if the number of settlers in each place is small, the individual settler's expenses will be higher, since the infrastructure expenses are fixed and are not related to the number of settlers.

Mr Drobles also said that last year the Settlement Department established 18 new settlements in Judaea and Samaria. There are presently some 35,000 Jews in Judaea and Samaria, some of them from abroad. Once an additional 7,000 housing units are completed in the next 8 to 15 months, a further 30,000 Jews will have been added, so that all together there will be more than 60,000 Jews in the territories.

He said that some 140 settlements have been established in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza District, the Golan Heights, and the Jordan Rift Valley, and promised that although the belt has to be tightened, and this applies to everyone, the department will support the weaker settlements so that they function better.

In reply to a question insinuating that the settlements were coming at the expense of the rehabilitation of slum neighborhoods, as reported, Mr Drobles said that misinformation is being spread, adding that it is Israel's duty to guarantee education to all its children, including along the border, and this is cheaper in the Judaea and Samaria settlements. The state must also provide them with housing, in accordance with criterion for eligibility, which is what it does in the settlements in the territories as well. At the same time, the country is saving on army camps since the settlers guard security.

As for other people's argument that no settlements are being established in the Galilee and 'Arava since all the resources are channeled to the Judaea and Samaria settlements, Mr Drobles said that since 1977, 64 new settlements have been established in the Galilee, in addition to the vast investment in roads.

Mr Drobles pointed out that thousands of families and individuals belonging to more than 50 cells have been waiting for their turn to settle for more than a year or two.

In the course of the journalists' tour of Elon More, the head of the Samaria regional council, Beni Katzover, said that the settlers in the area have returned their arms to the IDF. He noted that he personally has been walking about unarmed for more than a month now. He noted that the arms were returned since the Jewish settlers are always the prime suspects in every incident in the area. "When we are attacked, the person who is being assaulted rather than the assailant receives treatment first," Beni Katzover said.

He added that in the past 2 years tens of thousand of dunams have been purchased, and complained that recently the State Attorney's Office and the Housing Ministry have been piling up difficulties to land purchasing deals. He further noted that the country is losing thousands of dunams of land robbed by people who claim ownership over them.

There are already some 200 families in the religious town of 'Immanu'el, and also yeshivas with students. There are also girls' and boys' schools and some kindergartens and preschool day care centers.

An industrial park designed for 50 plants is also being built in the city, and most of the plants there will be science-based.

The Bet Abba communal settlements, named after Aba Ahime'ir [revisionist figure] is absorbing many settlers. The first settlers expanded their apartments by adding to the existing structures.

The settlements of Elon More and Berakha are developing according to plan, as the heads of the respective local councils have reported.

Budget Cut Affects Plans

TA251056 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpts] According to department sources, the cut in the Zionist Organization's Settlement Department budget will prevent the establishment of 11 new settlements planned for Judaea and Samaria in the coming fiscal yuear. Our correspondent Gil Ronen reports on the budget cut and settlement plan for next year.

[Begin recording] In addition to the 9-percent cut that will be effected in all government ministries, the Settlement Department is supposed to cut another 8 percent of its budget, as part of the cut in the development budget. If a final decision is made on additional cuts, the department will have to reduce its budget by about 600 million shekels. How will this affect settlement?

A senior source in the Settlement Department said the effect will be that 11 planned settlements will not be established. One of the Judaea and Samaria settlement leaders claims that quite a few building projects have already been stopped.

In contrast, the head of the Zionist Organization's Settlement Department, Mr Matityahu Drobles claims there is no truth to the talk about a building project freeze.

The cuts have not yet been finalized and one should await the conclusion of the deliberations. Next week the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs will convene and the Settlement Department is going to submit for its approval plans for the establishment of a number of new settlements. [end recording]

Continuing Reportage on FRG Chancellor's Visit

Knesset Members Meet Kohl

TA251154 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Chancellor Kohl met with a group of 13 coalition and opposition Knesset members in a session which lasted for about an hour. Afterward, Knesset Member Yehuda Ben-Me'ir of the National Religious Party said all the Israeli speakers had come out strongly against the supply of German arms to Saudi Arabia.

[Begin Ben-Me'ir recording] All the members, regardless of their political affiliation, stressed the severity, both from a political and from a moral point of view, and what its effect will be on Israeli-German relations of the consummation of such an arrangement for the sale of German weapons to Saudi Arabia or any other Arab country which is at war with Israel and that, once again, in our generation, German arms will be aimed against Jewish boys, intending to kill them. So, all he said was that no decision has been made.

He stressed the economic relations between Germany and those Arab countries, referring to Saudi Arabia without mentioning her by name, hinted at the fact that other countries — I gather he referred to the United States — have a more considerable armaments relationship with Saudi Arabia, and said that he will give consideration to what he heard here from the members of Knesset on this issue. It was important that he heard from all the members of the Knesset, and each one stressed that unless there is total unity.... [apparent break in recording] Then also, a number of members of the Knesset raised the issue of the Waffen SS, on which he spoke lengthily and explained that he did not intend, nor does he intend, to rehabilitate the SS, but that this was a technical issue in terms of the German procedures, etcetera. [end recording]

Saudi Arms, EEC Discussed

TA251230 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpts] At a meeting with Knesset members, Chancellor Kohl evaded an answer to the criticisms levelled at Germany's plan to sell arms to Saudi Arabia. The chancellor arrived at the Knesset building today, met Knesset members, and visited the plenary hall. He was greeted by Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor.

Two major issues were raised at the meeting with the Knesset members: the German arms sale to Saudi Arabia and Israel's relations with the EEC prior to Portugal's and Spain's participation in it. Alignment MK Moshe Shahal raised the issue of arms sale. He said that the Israeli people are united in their opposition to the arms sale. Likud MK Me'ir Shitrit raised Israel's problem concerning the EEC.

In response to the Knesset members, Khol said that despite the German Government's budget cuts, the FRG is continuing to invest in Israel. On the EEC, he said that Spain and Portugal are part of Europe and that he discussed this issue with the prime minister. As for German recognition of the Waffen SS Organization, he said one should understand democracy in the FRG. As for the arms sale, the chancellor evaded giving a clear answer. We are not the great arms suppliers in the world, he said, and suggested that all Middle East problems be solved through negotiations.

Second Shamir-Kohl Meeting

LD251516 Hamburg DPA in German 1442 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, 25 Jan (DPA) — National-Socialist extermination of Jews was again brought home to Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Israel today with a protest walk-out by three deputies from the plenary chamber of the Knesset in Jerusalem and in a series of discussions.

Kohl's second meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, on the other hand, was held, as both sides stressed several times, in perfect harmony despite existing differences of opinion.

West German Government spokesman Peter Boenisch told journalists that the discussion was held in the sort of frank atmosphere that "is only possible among friends." His Israeli counterpart, Avi Pazner, spoke of the "great achievement of this frank discussion between friends."

According to the two government spokesmen, the second meeting between Kohl and Shamir was dominated by two topics: Israel's relations with the European Community and the Middle East conflict.

Shamir expressed Israel's great concern that its agricultural exports, 50 percent of which go to EC countries, will be considerably jeopardized after Spain's and Portugal's entry into the community.

Kohl promised to examine, together with the other EC countries, Israel's interests in a benevolent fashion but nothing will change the EC's basic intention to expand.

Afterward, Shamir explained in detail Israel's position on the Middle East conflict and rejected in this respect all initiatives which have come about without Israel's involvement or approval. In this way he contradicted the chancellor, who the evening before described U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Middle East plan as a welcome move to get the peace process resumed in the Middle East on a broader basis.

Discussion on the Middle East was not completed during the 90-minute meeting, so both sides arranged an unscheduled continuation of the discussion for late this afternoon, Boenisch said.

Kimche Meets Alois Mertes

TA251456 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1237 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Referring to the German-Saudi Arabian arms deal, German Deputy Foreign Minister Alois Mertes said that Germany understood the problem created as a result of the contradictions between Israel's security needs and the Western world's interests

in the Persian Gulf. Mertes made this remark at a meeting with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche less than an hour ago. Director General Kimche reported that during the Lebanon war, the IDF had found U.S. weapons that the Saudi Arabians had transferred to the terrorists. Therefore, Kimche pointed out, there was no guarantee that German weapons supplied to Saudi Arabia would not in the end be handed over to terrorists or countries on the front line with Israel.

Kohl, Mertes Visit Jerusalem

TA251831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Chancellor Kohl visited Jerusalem's city hall this afternoon as the guest of Mayor Teddy Kollek. Reporter Dan Eisenberg heard the mayor's greeting:

[Begin recording] [Kollek] Welcome to Jerusalem, our eternal capital, cradle of Judaism and Christianity, holy to the three monotheistic religions: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

[Eisenberg] Mayor Kollek gave Chancellor Kohl a gift of two ancient oil lamps mounted on a wodden plaque, on which was written: the light of the redeemer is the light unto all. Responding to the motif, Chancellor Kohl said he had seen the light of Jerusalem from the roof of the municipality building. Whoever views the city from there, said Kohl, sees history before his eyes; he who does not feel this has neither understanding nor feeling for time or history.

Kolh also referred to the walls which divided Jerusalem and still divide Berlin. He said: We hope that the cities which have been split will be reunited, because a divided city is like a body whose limbs have been amputated. His reference to West Germany's approach to the status of Jerusalem was oblique, but his minister of state, Alois Mertes, was more explicit:

[Mertes] The question of the unification of Jerusalem is of course linked with the whole question of the territories, on the West Bank, because from our leader's point of view, East Jerusalem belongs to the territories, but we consider the unification of Jerusalem as the crowning element of the solution of the Near East conflict on the whole.

[Eisenberg] Chancellor Kohl gave Mayor Kollek a map of Jerusalem printed in 1502, and to his wife a porcelain serving plate. [end recording]

Peres Meets Kohl

TA260818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Chancellor Kohl met this morning with the chairman of the Labor Party, MK Peres explained to the chancellor that Israelis were united in their opposition to the sale of German weapons to Saudi Arabia.

MA'ARIV on Arms Deal

TA251135 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jan 84 p 8

[Editorial: "The Visit and the Tools of Destruction"]

[Text] West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit cannot avoid being overshadowed by the great argument over the question of whether Germany is entitled, in the field of arms trade, to behave like any other country competing in the manufacture and sale of destructive implements, and whether it can sell military equipment to an Arab country that is in a state of war with Israel.

The more attempts are made to try to push this argument aside and explain that the purpose of the visit is, first and foremost, to give expression to the friendly relations prevailing between the two countries, the more it will spring up, and it will be the main test of the sincerity of the courteous and friendly remarks made by the visitor.

The problem is basically a moral one. The economic benefits West Germany can obtain from the sale of sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia are clear. Bonn's desire to be free and unrestrained in this matter, as the United States and France are, is also clear. However, does money provide the answer to everything? And can Germany really behave like any other country in the world in this matter?

Tanks are an offensive weapon, and the West German chancellor knows this. They are not manufactured in order to defend a border, but to break through borders and advance forward. The Saudi Arabians are not hesitating to say that they regard Israel as a more dangerous enemy than the Soviet Union. They operated in accordance with this belief in previous wars, and it is inevitable that they will also do so in the future.

If Germany regards itself as free to supply our enemies with weapons that could be used to kill Jews, this will mean that it is trying to unilaterally get out of the historic responsibility for the murder of 6 million Jews in World War II.

Such behavior would cancel out the whole attempt to turn over a new leaf in relations between Jews and Germans. It would create a situation in which Germany no longer exterminates Jews itself, but supplies tools to those who support the killing of Jews, and thus provides them with moral support.

The delicate fabric of the relations between Germany and Israel will not be able to stand up under such tension. The chancellor should take advantage of his visit to calm the fears in the heart of the citizens and Government of Israel.

POST on Saudi Arms

TA250918 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 84 p 8

[Commentary by Ze'ev Hafetz: "Unequivocal Choice"]

[Text] In a recent interview with an Israeli reporter, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl described his deep affection for the

Jewish people. He told of his many visits to the Jewish cemetery near his home, where he and his family go to ponder the lessons of Germany's treatment of the Jews, acknowledged the special obligations of post-war Germany and pointed to his own deep commitment to those obligations.

At the same time, Kohl emphasized the fact that he was a boy during World War II. Unlike his predecessor, Helmut Schmidt, who was an officer on the eastern front, Kohl had no connection wahtever to the Nazi war machine. His message was clear: He comes to Jerusalem with clean hands and a clear appreciation of Germany's responsibilities to the Jewish state.

And yet, despite Kohl's philo-Semitism and obvious sensitivity, his visit to Israel is deeply disturbing, and not only to those Israelis who object in principle to Israeli-German relations. For it is apparently the intention of Kohl's government to sell sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia, as Helmut Kohl must know, is at war with the State of Israel. The Saudis are major backers of the PLO and extremist Arab states; and they are the leading force behind the economic boycott of Israeli and Jewish business interests around the world. More significantly, the Saudis are the most prominent contemporary practitioners of state-approved anti-Semitism.

Not since Nazi Germany has any nation been so unabashedly candid about its hatred of Jews. *AL-JAZIRAH*, a government-controlled newspaper, put the official Saudi view this way: "The Jewish religion is nothing but a collection of criminal racist principles, sowing cruelty, bloodlust and murder in those who believe in it." Shades of Adolph Hitler.

It is to this government that Chancellor Kohl hopes to sell German weapons.

In his meetings with Israeli officials, Kohl will undoubtedly offer all the standard justifications for the arms sale. The weapons, he will maintain, are defensive. The Saudis are too weak to threaten Israel. They intend to deploy the arms against the ayatollah, not against the Jewish state. The U.S. has already supplied the Saudis with formidable weapons systems. Germany's economy needs the boost that such a deal would provide. Mr Kohl will ask his Israeli counterparts to take all this into account, and to act reasonably.

How should Israel reply? Not, I think, by debating the merits of the German arguments, for they are entirely irrelevant to Israel's primary concern — that a generation after the Holocaust, the German government wants to unharness Germany from its burden of guilt, and to declare a statute of limitations on its crimes against the Jews. This, and not questions of Israeli security or German economic expediency, is the central issue.

Chancellor Kohl is reputed to be a direct and forthright man, and he should be told, directly and forthrightly, that the sale of German arms to Saudi Arabia will be taken as evidence that, whatever its rhetoric, Germany has renounced its responsibility for the Holocaust.

Germany may proclaim its shame and remorse for its mass murder of Jews, or it may sell guns to the enemies of the Jews — but it cannot credibly do both. Moreover, it should be made clear that Israel cannot conceivably maintain normal contacts with a post-war Germany that has unilaterally granted itself a pardon and, in so doing, has called the sincerity of its self-proclaimed moral rehabilitation into question.

Perhaps Germany, having attained international respectability largely through its relations with Israel over the past three decades, is past caring about Israeli sensitivities. But it is the obligation of the Israeli Government to make it clear to Mr Kohl and his colleagues that Jewish public opinion — in the Diaspora as well as in Israel — cannot possibly accept Germany in the role of arms dealer to anti-Jewish regimes.

Only a clear statement by Chancellor Kohl that he understands this, and that, despite the economic temptation, he is morally bound not to sell guns to Israel's enemies, will suffice. Anything less will mark his trip to Jerusalem as a cynical charade, and his visit to Yad Vashem as a shameful and ugly photo opportunity.

AL-AKHBAR Commentary on Kohl Visit Criticized

JN252115 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 25 Jan 84

["Observation" by Yusuf Ya'qub]

[Text] Dear listeners, the Cairo paper *AL-AKHBAR* commented today on the FRG chancllor's visit to Israel by saying that Kohl is visiting Israel while the region is witnessing severe disturbances — whether in what is related to Lebanon, to the Palestine question, or to the struggle between the U.S. and USSR in the region. It would have been thought of as natural and reasonable in this case if the paper attracted the FRG chancellor's attention to the threats that his country and other European state might face if the Middle East dispute dangerously deteriorates.

Had the Egyptian paper said only this, its commentary would have been considered objective and respectful. However, it seems that the writer was afraid when he reached this point, lest he would be accused of being objective, neutral, and respectful — something that is not desired among the Arab media specialists. Therefore, the writer included in his article an invitation asking Kohl to urge Israel to proceed on the path of peace and end what he termed the Israeli military tendency against the Palestinians, the Lebanese, and other Arabs.

Before commenting on the Cairo paper's article, we would like to reassure the writer that Kohl, as indicated by the statements he has made since arriving in Israel, is very well aware of what is taking place in the region and of the threats that are posed to the region. Kohl also knows which parties are concerned with tackling the situation and which parties are behind the deterioration in the region. Therefore, Kohl stressed from the first moment that all parties must exert increasing efforts to seek solutions that may help the peoples of this region to live together peacefully and within secured borders.

When Kohl calls on all the parties concerned to exert increasing efforts, he means all the parties — and not only Israel. This is clear, because Kohl and others know very well that Israel has tried and is trying to achieve peace. He is also aware of Israel's sacrifices to guarantee the success of any peaceful initiative in the region.

In its capacity as an Egyptian paper that has witnessed the Egyptian-Israeli peace process, we ask *AL-AKHBAR*: Is Israel, which has responded to Egypt's peace initiative from the beginning, the one that must be urged to march on the path of peace, or is it the Arab leaders, who continue to flout peace and disregard Egypt because it is determined to continue on the path of peace? Is Israel, whose prime minister has welcomed the recent Jordanian moves toward peaceful negotiations, the side that must be encouraged to work for peace or is it Syria that must be encouraged to do that, particularly since the latter has not stopped its threats to Jordan, warning it not to join Egypt in the march of peace?

We ask the Cairo paper: Is it not better to address such remarks to the Arab brothers and not to Israel, particularly since the Arab brothers, such as Libya's Jallud, frankly say that they reject Reagan's peace plan: Jallud even hinted that Libya will not allow the Arab summit to convene unless it is certain that this summit will not be used to endorse any peace plans or to issue any decisions related to the peace process, such as Egypt's readmittance to the Arab League, as was the case during the Islamic conference. The same thing is being frankly reiterated by the Syrian news media.

We need not give any more examples. We do not think that the Cairo paper needs any further confirmation that it was wrong. The Cairo paper does not need anyone to tell it about the real side dealing with Palestinians and the Lebanese in a military manner. However, we would like to whisper to the respected writer that objectivity, neutrality, and respect are the fundamental characteristics of any honorable journalist. These characteristics are not accusations, as he thinks.

Shamir 'Slightly Hurt' in Traffic Accident

TA260733 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0719 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] We are returning from the newsroom to Tel Hashomer Hospital and the IDF broadcasting van, where our correspondent Uri Ginnosar is waiting. What is new at Tel Hashomer?

[Ginnosar] The prime minister's car left here about 5 minutes ago. The prime minister left entirely safe and sound, he told correspondents, and we will hear this in just a moment: I feel fine; I was slightly hurt. All the fuss there was here, waiting for an announcement about the prime minister's condition. All the journalists and ministers who were here have dispersed. Let us hear what the prime minister said when he came out:

[Begin Shamir recording] I feel absolutely fine. Nothing happened. There was a traffic accident, but nothing happened. I was not hurt and everything is fine. They examined me; the results are positive, and I am going back to work. While we were travelling, a car came along on the right; and, well, I was apparently slightly hurt because I was thrown over to the other side inside the car. But I have been examined and nothing was injured. I am going back to the office. I am holding all the meetings, and everything is normal. It happened when we were leaving the airport. [end recording]

[Ginnosar] Well, the prime minister is safe and sound; he is continuing with his normal work agenda.

Herzog Pleased With Results of Africa Trip

TA260759 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Israel's president, Hayim Herzog, returned to Israel more than an hour ago after a state visit to several African countries. Our correspondent Gil Ronen was among those greeting him at the Ben-Gurion Airport.

[Begin recording] [Ronen] The main achievement of my visit was the visit itself, President Herzog said in a short news conference he convened after his plane landed at the airport. The playing of the national anthem and the flying of the Israeli flag in Zaire and Liberia, the broadcasting of programs and publication of articles in the press about Israel —these are the important achievements.

[Herzog] The reception for me and my wife and the entourage exceeded all expectations. I have no words to describe the enthusiasm and sincere friendship with which we were received by hundreds of thousands of people absolutely everywhere: in Zaire, in Kinshasa, in Lubumbashi, in Shaba Province, in Kolwezi and in (Badaliti). And, in Liberia, in the capital, Monrovia. As I said, hundreds of thousands of people cheered Israel everywhere. Israeli flags flew from every mast. Thousands of children flew Israeli flags in the streets. We were received everywhere with songs in Hebrew; Hevenu Shalom 'Alekhem [We Have Brought You Peace], Hava Nagila and so on and so on. The rulers and the people bent over backward to demonstrate friendship and joy.

[Ronen] The president's visit was purely ceremonial in nature. He also spoke at length with Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko and Liberian leader Samuel K. Doe. These talks,the president said today, were a continuation of the talks held a year ago by then-Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and then-Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, talks on cooperation between Israel and the African states. I will report to the prime minister in Jerusalem about these talks, the president said. [end recording]

The president of Israel would prefer that Israeli military aid to those African countries we are helping should not be the main focus of Israeli-African relations, but that the agricultural-technical aid should be. This was stated by President Herzog in an exclusive interview he granted our correspondent Ilana Dayan who accompanied the president throughout his tour of Africa. He granted that interview in the plane on his way back to Israel.

[Begin recording] [Herzog] The feeling was really emotional. It started to build up when we were 30 km from the airport and continued on the way to Kinshasa, and there were hundreds of thousands of cheering citizens. Someone told me there were more

than a million cheering the president of the State of Israel, with Israeli flags in their hands, singing songs in Hebrew, and banners, and, altogether. It was an amazing feeling. The same thing occurred 70 km from the airport to Monrovia; the same thing all along the way through the populated areas. Everywhere I felt [words indistinct] that the emotion came from the heart and was not just staged.

[Dayan] Do you believe that this expression of emotion from the heart was a guarantee that Israel's return to Africa is different from what it was in the 1960's?

[Herzog] I have the feeling that there is a trend toward more independence there, and many of them, as my hosts told me, admit that they made a mistake by having severed relations. By the way, there is a feeling of fighting against the blackmail, the Arab pressure. And all of them believe that the severing of relations did harm to their very independence. Now, if you ask me what the reason was for all this enthusiasm, above and beyond what is the norm for international courtesies, I would say that we are reaping the results of our activity in the 1950's and 1960's. The impression of those days, the agricultural development and mutual aid, is very profound in Africa now, much more profound than I had ever estimated. The result is that when they came out to receive me, as the president of a friendly country, they understood; they saw something above and beyond the conventional visit.

[Dayan] Mr Herzog, here, in the plane carrying you back to Israel, can you identify the main achievement of the 5-day visit to Zaire and the 2-day visit to Liberia?

[Herzog] Yes. The very fact of the visit. The very fact of the visit is a very great achievement. An entire generation of African youth suddenly discovered that the Israeli flag is something positive, that the president of the State of Israel should be accepted as all the world's presidents are received, that the Israeli anthem in Hebrew is a sign of friendship and brotherhood. All these things have not only penetrated to the youth —and it is very, very important for it to reach the youth — all these things together combine into something which I hope will produce fruits in our social, diplomatic, political, and economic relations. [end recording]

Israel, U.S. Cooperation Talks Reported

TA241757 Jerusalem Domestic service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Excerpts] In the economic talks between Israel and the United States, the Americans expressed great concern about the Israeli economic situation. Nevertheless, our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the Americans did not explicitly make continued aid to Israel conditional upon restraining measures on the part of the Finance Ministry. The strategic cooperation talks are underway in parallel with the economic talks. Israel is pressuring the United States for clearly defined conclusions [sikumim] in these talks. But for its part, the United States emphasizes the Lebanese problem.

'Dollarization' Raised at Talks

TA250528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] At the talks which ended last night in Washington between Israeli economists and U.S. Administration representatives, U.S. economists raised the dollarization idea as one of the possibilities of overcoming the economic difficulties in Israel but noted they understand the problems involved in such a move. Our correspondent in Washington reported that in the course of the talks Secretary of State George Shultz entered the room suddenly and said the United States is interested in a sound economy in Israel and is prepared to help in this regard.

Israeli and U.S. sources told our correspondent that in the talks the U.S. Administration expressed its concern over the situation in Israel and urged that its budget be cut and inflation decreased.

It seems that the finance minister will go to Washington next month. A date for his visit has not yet been set. Finance Minister Kohen-Orgad said this morning it is not necessary to have dollarization, nor will it be introduced.

Jordan Missile Sale Criticized

TA260637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Last night, in a military base near Washington, 2-day deliberations about strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States came to an end. No concluding announcement was issued, but the U.S. State Department spokesman explained that there would be another meeting of the group this year. Correspondents report that a military subcommittee from both countries will meet in Israel next month to discuss joint maneuvers and military planning and the storage of military equipment in Israel.

Our military correspondent reports that there is no inclination in the IDF toward supporting joint maneuvers with the U.S. Army. People from the Israeli defense establishment have expressed anger at the fact that when the delegation from Israel was in the United States, it was announced in Washington that the administration intends to bring to Congress a plan to sell Jordan sophisticated antiaircraft missiles. The missiles, of the Stinger model, are particularly effective at medium altitudes;and Israel regards their sale to Jordan as a threat.

Border Incident With Egyptian Unit Averted

TA260639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Yesterday an incident between a Border Guards mechanized patrol and a unit of Egyptian soldiers was prevented. Border Guards policemen were patrolling, as they do daily, in the area under Israeli control, when about 2 km west of Tabah they came up against an Egyptian force. The commander of the force ordered the policemen to leave the area at once because it was

under Egyptian sovereignty. The commander of the Border Guards patrol refused and reported to his commanders over his radio. Then the Egyptian officer ordered his men to leave the area.

Air Force Using New Israeli-Made Trainer

TA250911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The Air Force has begun using the Tzuqit plane produced by the Israeli Aircraft Industries in its training program. It is an improvement over the Fouga Magister trainer used by the IDF since the 1960's. Some 250 improvements have been introduced in it, and the investment of millions of dollars for the purchase of new trainers has been saved.

Government Demands Chile Extradite War Criminal

TA241953 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Text] Israel is demanding [doreshet] that Nazi war criminal Walter Rauff, who currently lives in Chile, be extradited to Israel. Justice Minister Moshe Nisim has called upon the Chilean Government to expell Rauff, and said that Israel wants to try him. Rauff, a former top SS officer, designed the truck into which gas was pumped, causing the death of hundreds of thousands of Jews.

LIBYA

JANA Denies Libyan Presence on Chad Cease-Fire Line

LD252008 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1940 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Jan (JANA) — In a report about the disappearance of two doctors belonging to the so-called "Doctors Without Borders" organization, AFP has alleged that Libyan forces were stationed in the Chadian territories on the cease-fire line.

It is a certain and established fact that this allegation is totally unfounded and falls within the series of fabrications made to minimize the dominant role of the forces of the legitimate unity government led by President Goukouni Oueddei, and to insure the continuation of the war between the Chadian factions to serve the interests of non-Chadian quarters which are anxious to keep the situation in Chad ablaze.

Confrontation between the forces of the legitimate Government of National Union and the French aircraft that raided their positions near the cease-fire line, and the fact that these forces were able to shoot down two of the raiding aircraft indicate that the legitimate Government of National Union is a force that asserts itself on the field without the participation of or assistance from anyone.

Clearly, the forces of the legitimate Government of National Union have been obliged to undertake military action in order to liberate Chad after the rebel Habre refused to take part in the round table conference on national reconciliation held in Addis Ababa under OAU patronage. Therefore, rebel Habre and the parties supporting him bear responsibility for the deterioration of the situation and for the continuing bloody conflict. It is now abundantly clear that the persistent refusal of the Ndjamena clique to settle the conflict peacefully does not serve the objectives and real aspirations of the legitimate government of national union and the Chadian people.

Hence, the legitimate government headed by Goukouni Oueddei believes it has the right to continue the struggle to liberate Chad and to rescue the Chadian people from the clutches of rebel Habre. It also has the legitimate right to resist any party acting in support of Habre against the wishes of the Chadian people and aimed at bringing Chad back under colonial domination.

The conflict in Chad is an internal one among Chadian factions. Hence no foreign side must interfere in it nor involve itself in acts which do not serve the interests of the Chadian people who are suffering from division and the tribulations of the civil war.

JANA Cites Bardai Radio on Downed French Planes

LD252035 Tripoli JANA IN Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Bardai, 25 Jan (JANA) — Radio Bardai this evening said that forces of the legitimate unity government stationed near the cease-fire line have brought down two French Jaguar warplanes, and that the pilot of one of those planes was killed after his plane was destroyed. The radio said that the downing of the two French planes took place in the course of the brave challenge made by our forces, against the raiding French planes.

Official Outlines Stance on Disarmament Topics

LD261034 Tripoli JANA in English 0843 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Stockholm, Rabi Thani 22, Jan 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Libyan Arab delegation participating in the European security and disarmament conference currently held in Stockholm took the initiative to explain the stand of the Jamahiriyah on international issues and problems being discussed in the conference.

In the beginning the delegation pointed out that by its very nature the question of security has many dimmensions. Then they went on by saying that despite efforts by the world community to solve the problems of security, no progress has actually taken place. On the contrary, the arms race is still going on. As if building a huge arsenal of traditional and nuclear weapons is not enough, big countries have now begun developing outer space military industries.

The speaker stressed the necessity of reducing the horrific huge military arsenal being piled in Europe and the Mediterranean Sea basin drawing his listeners' attention to the fact that while 85 million people die of hunger and disease the world passes [as received] more than 600 billion dollars on armament.

He said the Jamahiriyah is highly concerned with the security of Europe and the Mediterannean Sea because it affects its national security. For instance, during the Second World War Libya suffered from the war between European countries. In fact, it is still suffering from the consequences of that war in the form of land mines which killed and deformed thousands of Libyans, hampered the development plans and increased the expenses of many projects.

He added that the issue of mines from which the Jamahiriyah is suffering has been widely discussed in the non-alignment organization and the United Nations.

Discussions, he stressed, resulted in issuing resolutions demanding the countries reponsible for the damages to pay war reparation to the victim countries.

Furthermore, they were asked to produce the necessary information and maps on the mine fields' whereabouts. Yet, these countries have not met their obligations with regard to defusing the mines or paying reparation.

The delegation called for making the Mediterranean Sea basin a zone of peace. They confirmed that the Jamahiriyah has never stopped efforts for the sake of reducing tension in this strategic area which has now been invaded by military fleets and bases. The speaker stressed that these fleets and bases have become a serious threat to our security and the security of the Mediteranean people.

He emphasised that the Jamahiriyah has always been in favour of dialogue policy in solving conflicts arising between countries

in the Mediterranean Sea region by refering to negotiations, arbitration, the United Nations and other international organisations.

He pointed out that it is one of the conference's objectives to take effective tangible new measures which would achieve mutual trust and disarmament and would contribute to end the use of force and threat.

He particularly expressed his hope that the conference would reach positive results whereby an atmosphere of trust, detente and cooperation would be created among the people.

He stressed that the conference has to take into consideration the legitimate interests and security of a country like Libya since it is one of the Mediteranean Sea countries close to Europe.

The delegation hoped that the Mediterranean countries which did not participate would in future be given a greater role in effectively and substantially contributing within the framework of this conference towards achieving peace and security for the Mediterranean and its coming generations.

AL-ZAHAF AL-AKHDAR on U.S. Anti-Libyan Campaign

PM251529 London AL-ZAHAF AL-AKHDAR in English 14 Jan 84 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Libya: America's New Propaganda Campaign"]

[Text] Preparations are currently under way in Italy for an intensive propaganda campaig against Libya to be financed by the Reagan administration with the aim of stepping up psychological pressure on the Libyan Arab people by levelling false accusations and using fabricate allegations against tem.

America's Central Intelligence Agency is preparing to launch this blatant campaign, which is in harmony with U.S. terroristic policies against Libya. The reason for the campaign is that Libya is firmly opposed to America's hegemony and is endeavouring to bravely confront and thwart all US. conspiracies.

According to reliable sources in Rome, it was learnt that American businessman Lindon Larussin, who belongs to the Republican Party's extreme right wing, has visited Italy to finance this campaign according to instructions issued by Reagan so as to fuel the unrelenting hostility to Libya. The same sources also indicate that the U.S. Administration, in accordance with its anti-Libyan policy, is working towards undermining the existing relations between Italy and the Jamahiriyah. This has been primarily stressed in the campaign of allegation to be launched from Italy as the Reagan administration is trying to attribute the terrorist activities perpetrated by the Mafia and the Camora gangs to Libya, activities which Libya has continuously and openly condemned.

Thus, Reagan's administration steps up its aggressive confrontation against Libya, this time by choosing the Italian scene to spread more fabrications and poison, hoping to gain from the stands of the Libyan Arab people and break the link between its stands of principle and struggle on various levels. It is worth drawing attention here to the fact that the Reagan administration has once more proved that it is against the peoples who are displeased with Washington's path and who want to work independently towards adopting their legitimate choice to realise progress.

JANA: GUNT Forces Attack Areas in Chad

LD250103 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] JANA has learned that the supporters of President Goukouni Oueddei, the president of the Transitional Government of National Union, have staged a sweeping attack on the Am Dam area and captured some French arms. They also killed four persons.

Violent clashes had also taken place in the Ra'i area near Am Timan and caused the death of well over 30 persons from the mutineer Habre forces.

MOROCCO

Government Statement on Casualties, Damage

LD252114 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The His Majesty's government has issued the following statement:

In his address to the nation last Sunday [22 January] King Hassan II explained the real reasons behind the recent events in some of the Kingdom's towns. After denouncing the elements which perpetrated and planned these criminal acts, the king affirmed that the final word rests with the authorities and the law.

Now that calm has returned to the various urban areas that were the scene of the riots, the his majesty's government wishes to inform the citizens of the results of these events:

1. Deaths: 16 people at Nador, 9 at Tetouan, and 4 at Alhucemas. The corpses were examined by forensic doctors and later delivered to their relatives.

2. Wounded: 37 at Nador including 5 members of the security forces, 73 at Tetouan including 20 members of the security forces, and 4 at Alhucemas including 1 member of the security forces. All the wounded were hospitalized.

3. Material losses: At Nador 7 private vehicles and 1 vehicle belonging to the security forces were set on fire; 10 vehicles were destroyed, 11 were stolen from public places and 6 schools and 9 business places were destroyed. At Tetuan 7 private vehicles and 3 security forces vehicles were set on fire, 7 administrative buildings were destroyed, the headquarters of the Moroccan Red Crescent was set on fire and a post office was looted. At

Alhucemas 4 private vehicles were set on fire and 3 schools were damaged. The culprits have been arrested and charged.

Moroccan-Libyan Government Committee Meets in Rabat

LD251422 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The joint meeting between members of the Moroccan and Libyan Governments began a short time ago at the Prime Ministry headquarters in Rabat.

This meeting is headed on the Moroccan side by Minister of State Mr Ahmed Osman, filling in for the prime minister. The Libyan side is headed by engineer Jadallah 'Aziz at-Talhi, secretary [as heard] of the General People's Committee. The Libyan ministerial delegation arrived in Rabat this morning. The visit by the Libyan delegation, which includes 18 ministers in various economic, social, and cultural fields, comes within the framework of consolidating cooperation between Morocco and Libya and implementing the results of the talks that took place between His Majesty King Hassan II and President [as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during the Libyan president's recent visit to Morocco.

The Libyan delegation was received at Sala airport by the members of the government, led by Prime Minister Mr Mohamed Karim Lamrani, the governors of Rabat and Sala, the Moroccan ambassador to Tripoli, and the Libyan ambassador to Morocco.

The secretary of the General People's Committee, Jadallah 'Aziz at-Talhi, gave the press the following statement:

[Begin At-Talhi recording] In the name of god, the merciful and the compassionate:

We, the General People's Committee in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, are happy to be in this great country, Morocco, to whose king, government, and people we convey the greetings of Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and the Libyan Arab people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brother Mohamed Karim Lamrani and his colleagues for the warmth of the reception we have received. We are [words indistinct] in the first meeting of the Moroccan cabinet and the general people's committee. We hope that this meeting will enable us — and we are sure of it — to push forward the cooperation between our countries in all fields." [end recording]

The Libyan ministerial delegation includes the secretaries of foreign liaison, justice, electricity, agrarian reform and land reclamation, economy and light industries, public service, social security, education, communications and maritime transport, health, treasury, utilities, housing, sport, planning, atomic energy, heavy industries, and petroleum.

The Moroccan-Libyan extended committee in charge of preparing for the meeting of the governments of the two countries ended its work in Rabat last night. It has agreed to the general minutes, which includes all the points and suggestions that came in the minutes of the subcommittees of the extended committee. The final session, which took place in the Interior Ministry, was headed on the Moroccan side by Mr Tayib Bencheikh, minister at the prime minister's office in charge of economic affairs, and on the Libyan side by Mr Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of planning.

KUNA: Papers Complain of Censorship

LD251622 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1418 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Rabat, 25 Jan (KUNA) — The Moroccan newspapers which were issued here today have complained about being censored even before printing.

AL-'ALAM and *AL-ITIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI* mentioned that security authorities begun to impose this censorship since the recent incidents, which occurred in a number of Moroccan cities. For the 3d consecutive day, opposition left wing paper *AL-BAYAN*, the mouthpiece of the Party of Progress and Socialism, was confiscated.

The newspapers of the Independence Party and the Socialist Union of popular forces expressed their sympathy with the confiscated newspaper.

On the other hand, the newspapers welcomed the governmental measures to combat the speculations in the prices.

The opposition *AL-ITIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI* pointed out that the detention campaign is still continuing and that a number of the party's cadres have been detained.

Responsible Moroccan sources have told KUNA that calm has been restored to all Moroccan cities after the speech by the Moroccan monarch, the speech in which he announced that there would be no increase in prices and that the law will be strictly applied.

SUDAN

Preparations for National Conscription Completed

JN251828 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Jan (SUNA) — Staff Brigadier Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, director of the national obligatory military service under the general command of the People's Armed Forces, has said that Sudanese citizens will be called on to perform obligatory national military service — conscription — during the coming months. He added that his administration has completed the preparation of forms and lists that contain personal information and data about every citizen, and has determined the areas and centers of conscription in the region and the capital. He affirmed that coordination took place with the concerned parties in order to implement this program, which is considered a national strategy.

In a statement to SUNA today, Brigadier 'Ali praised the Egyptian efforts and cooperation in implementing the military

service program in Sudan because of Egypt's long experience in this regard. He noted that the Sudanese People's Assembly last year approved the military service law, which define that citizens between 18 and 30 should perform this national duty. The law also defined that illiterates and those with elementary and intermediate school experience should serve 3 years; high school graduates, 24 months; university graduates, 18 months.

Concluding, 'Ali explained that following the conscription period the individual will be moved to the reserve and later to the mobilization stage, according to the need. He said that the law has specified the cases for postponmenet of or exemptions from military service and other exceptions of which the minister approves. The law also defined how the deserter will be penalized, and the advantages that the individual will gain by completing the military service.

Sudan-Egypt Technical Committee Continues Meeting

EA251727 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The technical committee for planning, financial and economic affairs, emanating from the Supreme Council for the Integration [between Sudan and Egypt], continued its meetings at the friendship hall in Khartoum yesterday evening under the chairmanship of Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, minister of planning in the Arab Republic of Egypt and chairman of the committee.

Mr Mirghani Muhammad Ahmad, alternate chairman of the committee, stated after the meeting that the committee continued discussion on reports of subcommittees. It discussed a report of the basic data and statements committee on the economy of the two countries. It included statements on research connected with the committee's work with various ministries in the two countries, the study of human, natural and material resources, preparation of indices for economic and social growth in thetwo countries, the study of measures for consolidating the two states' economic relations with the outside world, and the proposal of policies for directing private sector savings toward contributing to the financing of integration projects.

TUNISIA

President Cancels Curfew, Nominates Official

LD251329 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] This morning, President Habib Bourguiba held a working session at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage with Prime Minister and Interior Minister Mohamed Mzali, in the presence of Habib Bourguiba Jr, special adviser to the president of the republic, and Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi.

After the meeting, Mohamed Mzali said his excellency the president signed the following two decrees:

An order concerning the abrogation of Order No 2 for 1984, dated 3 January 1984, regarding curfew throughout the territory of the republic. Accordingly, the order concerning the curfew is cancelled definitively and the free movement of persons and vehicles throughout the territory of the republic and at all times is permitted;

An order concerning the nomination of Mohamed Moncaf [name indistinct] as president-director general of the Tunisian company for construction and mechanical and maritime repairs.

DJIBOUTI

President Hassan Receives Somali Ambassador

EA251957 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpt] President of the Republic of Djibouti Hassan Gouled Aptidon received this afternoon at the presidency here in Djibouti Mr (Abdi Nur Ali Yusuf), ambassador of the Somali Democratic Republic to the Republic of Djibouti. The president of the Republic and the SDR ambassador to Djibouti discussed fraternal relations between the Republic of Djibouti and Somalia.

ETHIOPIA

Eritrean Leader Details Factions' Unity Efforts

AU252030 Rome ANSA in English 1910 GMT 25 Jan 84

[All spellings of Eritrean names and organizations as received]

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, January 25 — The four organizations fighting for Eritrean independence, which have hitherto been at loggerheads over territorial and ideological disputes, are planning to meet at Khartoum in Sudan in about ten days to discuss what shape a new joint organization should take, one of the leading figures in the reunification moves told a press conference here today.

The secretary-general of the "Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Forces" (ELEPF) Osman Saleh Sabbe told reporters that his own group has already achieved an action pact with the "Eritrean Liberation Front" (ELF) and the "Eritrean Liberation Front-Revolutionary Council".

In Khartoum, he said, the problem would be to bring in the fourth group, the "Eritrean Popular Front" (EPF) to create a joint organization to lead the battle against the Ethiopian Government and speak for the Eritreans in international forums.

According to Sabbe, who was in Rome for a few hours on his way to London, he is asking for greater support from the international community.

In particular, he told the press conference, he would like to see the European ten, and Italy, in particular, raising the Eritrean case before the United Nations in the search for a "just and peaceful solution".

He also called on the Western governments to send humanitarian aid designed to offset the drought in the zone directly to the Eritreans, claiming that the Ethiopian Government either does not distribute the aid, or barters it off for weapons.

Sources in Sabbe's entourage claimed that the Ethiopian Army has suffered heavy losses in recent weeks at the hands of the Eritreans, as well as the resistance movements in Tigrai, Ordmo, and other ethnic areas.

"The Ethiopian soldiers are demoralized and want to stop fighting," said Sabbe, adding that the government in Addis Ababa can count on aid from the Soviet Union, Cuba, South Yemen, and East Germany.

He admitted, however, that the military advisers from these countries do not usually play a direct role in the fighting.

SOMALIA

Talks With Egyptian Delegation Open in Mogadishu

EA251736 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Somali Democratic Republic [SDR]-Egyptian talks between senior SDR officials and a visiting Egyptian delegation have opened in the People's Hall in Mogadishu.

The SDR delegation, which includes senior officials from various departments concerned with national development and their affiliated agencies, is led by the deputy minister for agriculture, Challe Mahmud Abdi Nur. The Egyptian delegation to the talks is headed by the deputy minister of planning [word indistinct], Ahmad al-Banna.

The talks are centered on ways to strengthen cooperation between Somalia and Egypt, particularly in the economic field, trade, and (?banana) and livestock programs.

The Egyptian delegation, which arrived in the SDR yesterday for an official visit that is to last several days, will tour several development projects and hold talks with senior SDR officials.

Siad Barre, Senghor Discuss Horn Situation

EA251919 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] president, Challe Muhammad Siad Barre, this afternoon held a second round of talks at the Presidency with the chairman of the League of African Socialist Parties, His Excellency Leopold Sedar Senghor.

Challe Siad and Senghor discussed the difficult situation prevailing in the Horn of Africa. They further discussed the long-standing problems [word indistinct], the struggle for freedom, the liberation struggle for the people living in the Horn of Africa, and the numerous refugees who are the result of the crisis prevailing in the Horn of Africa.

Senghor, who is also the chairman of the Mediation Committee for the Horn of Africa, praised the SDR leadership for its readiness to find a lasting solution to the crisis prevailing in the Horn of Africa.

The president and the chairman also discussed in detail the forthcoming meeting of the League of African Socialist Parties to be held in Mogadishu in June this year.

44 Government Troops Reportedly Defect to DFSS

EA252106 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Reports reaching us from the Ninth General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces state that 44 loyalist troops of the repressive regime of General Siad Barre have defected to the DFSS. The reports say that the 44 soldiers joined the DFSS complete with their weapons.

The defecting soldiers told Radio Halgan reporters that they joined the armed struggle as they could not stand the maladministration of dictator Siad Barre and his repressive agents who have infiltrated all levels of the Somali community.

UGANDA

Obote Receives Message from UK Government

EA251925 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] President Milton Obote has received the British high commissioner to Uganda, Mr Colin McLean. Mr McLean delivered a special message from the British Government. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

Dr Obote thanked the envoy for the message.

The meeting was attended by ministers and government officials.

CAMEROON

Prime Minister's Post Abolished; Republic Renamed

AB251930 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The post of prime minister has been abolished and the president of the National Assembly will act as president of the Republic in the event that the head of state is incapacitated. Cameroon ceases to be called the United Republic, as its name is changed to the Republic of Cameroon. But Cameroon remains a unity state [sentence as heard]. (Jos Liber) was at the National Assembly and has details.

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] returning from the assembly with the amendment of Articles 1, 5, 7, 8, 26 and 34 was carried out during a full sitting of Parliament following a consultative report presented by Mrs (Lilian Gassar), a member of Parliament, on behalf of the Committee on Constitutional Laws, Justice, Legislation, and Standing Orders, Administration and the Armed Forces.

The minister of territorial administration, Mr (Kumana Kane), speaking on behalf of the government, provided justifications for the government's proposal to amend the constitution. He said that government was seeking to amend two basic aspects of our Constitution, mainly Article 1 and 7, adding that the other articles to be amended were only consequential.

He added that these two articles deal with the word "united" and the post of the prime minister. [Words indistinct] the minister went on to explain that the word united gave the impression or used to give the impression that our country is made up of several states. Mr (Theodore Maima Tufi), the first vice president of the National Assembly, said that the abolition of the post of prime minister is a fundamental reform that is most timely, because the very existence of the prime minister's position vis-a-vis the president gave the impression of a duality of leadership or a seeming duality of leadership.

This is what it looks like right now: From the date of the amendment of Article 1 of the Constitution, the former United Republic of Cameroon now becomes the Republic of Cameroon. The post of the prime minister will henceforth be abolished or is henceforth abolished [as heard] and in the event that the president is temporarily absent or is incapacitated, he can appoint a minister of his choice to perform his duties and [words indistinct] delegation of powers. And in the event of a definite vacancy in the post of the Presidency of the Republic, the president of the National Assembly assumes the Presidency pending elections which must be conducted within not less than 20 days and not more than 40 days. If the president of the National Assembly cannot assume the office of president of the Republic, the next in line in the National Assembly, in this case the first vice president, will assume the office under the same conditions.

[Words indistinct] but the detailed [word indistinct] of these constitutional reforms will be published in our national gazette in English and in French. [end recording]

CHAD

Libyan Forces Cross 'Red Line', Capture Doctors

NC251749 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, Jan 25 (AFP) — Libyan forces in Chad attacked the city of Mao, 150 kms (90 miles) north of Ndjamena in the French-defended zone, and captured two French doctors along with 10 other prisoners, it was reported here today.

An 18-vehicle Libyan unit armed with SAM 7 missiles broke across the "Red Line" drawn by French forces protecting the Ndjamena government of President Hissein Habre from the Libyan-backed Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) led by Goukouni Oueddei occupying the north of the country, the French humanitarian organization, Medecins Sans Frontieres, said.

The surface-to-air missiles prevented French aircraft from attacking the Libyans as they withdrew to the northern Chadian stronghold at Faya-Largeau today.

France sent some 2,000 troops to Chad last year to buttress the Habre government against a GUNT-Libyan offensive.

Medecins Sans Frontieres could not immediately identify the captured doctors among the 25 physicians and 25 nurses working in Chad.

The medical personnel would be withdrawn towards the south in case their security was threatened, a spokesman said.

The two doctors taken prisoner by Libyan forces in an operation south of the Red Line during the past 48 hours were Belgian nationals, Marie-Chantal Rouckens and Christian Delzene, both aged 26, Medecins Sans Frontieres later announced.

French Fighter Shot Down

AB251808 Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, 25 Jan (AFP) — A French "Jaguar" fighter plane was shot down in Chad [word indistinct] surface-to-air missile and the pilot was killed, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu announced here today.

Government, GUNT Respond

LD261046 Paris International Service in French 0800 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Chad is at the forefront of the news this morning. After a lull of 5 months, tension has again mounted sharply on the ground. Moreover, a French combat plane was shot down by a SAM-7 ground-to-air missile and its pilot was killed.

The version of the plane incident presented by the GUNT of Goukouni Oueddei is slightly different. According to its representative in Paris, it was two Jaguars which were shot down at the moment of the column's withdrawal at a distance of more

than 200 kilometers north of the Red Line. GUNT denies having provoked the French planes and maintains that it simply reacted in order to defend itself after having been attacked.

The first reaction from the Ndjamena government, through an intermediary representing its ambassador in Paris, is that this is an unacceptable provocation, something very serious which deserves an immediate reaction. Mr Allam-mi spoke to this effect on Radio Monte Carlo yesterday.

In Ndjamena, Chadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Koram Hamet accused Morocco and the secretary general of the ICO, Habib Chatti, of having prevented the inclusion of the Chadian issue on the agenda of the Casablanca summit.

GUNT: 2 Jaguars Downed

AB251752 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

["War Communique"]

[Text] On Tuesday, 24 January, a commando of the National Liberation Army [ANL] attacked a French military post of Ziguey which is located 85 kms from Mao. Members of the commando annihilated and completely destroyed that garrison, taking 53 prisoners, including 2 members of the French "Doctors Without Borders." Furthermore, [words indistinct] wounded, many of them soldiers of the puppet army.

On the way back, beyond the so-called Red Line, a squadron of seven Jaguar aircraft attacked the ANL commandos. Our counterattack was crushing: Two Jaguar aircraft were shot down on that day. The French Air Force continues its bombings even as I am speaking. We will give you the full outcome of this ANL operation in our subsequent cast.

ZAIRE

Egypt's Mubarak To Lead Delegation Visit 31 Jan-2 Feb

AB260912 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak of Egypt will pay an official visit to Zaire from 31 January to 2 February 1984. He will be accompanied by General Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. Egyptian Ambassador to Zaire Mustafa Ahmad Fahmi announced the visit at the end of his audience with the first state commissioner, Kengo wa Dondo, this morning.

President Mobutu Accepts Invitation To Visit Israel

TA230542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jan 84

[Text] Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko will visit Israel at the invitation of President Herzog, who is currently touring Zaire. The date of the visit has not been set yet, but President Herzog expressed the hope that it would take place this year.

Speaking at a news conference at his privately owned ranch in the northern part of Zaire, Mobutu said that it is not his job to seek new friends for Israel in Africa. He refrained from giving a direct answer to a question on military cooperation with Israel, but did say that Zaire needs tractors and agricultural aid from Israel.

President Herzog today rounds up a 5-day visit to Zaire, and will depart for a brief tour of Liberia.

Meeting With SFRY Joint Cooperation Commission Opens

AB242210 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1730 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 23 Jan (AZAP) — In the view of the Government of Zaire, cooperation between Zaire and Yugoslavia would be placed within the framework of the hard struggle the nonaligned countries are waging to bring about a new international economic order. Citizen Umba Di Lutete, commissioner of state for foreign affairs and international cooperation, emphasized this on Monday while opening the third session of the Zaire-Yugoslavia Joint Cooperation Commission at the conference hall of his ministry.

Citizen Umba Di Lutete said this session, which is taking place after an interval of almost 4 years, should enable Zaire and Yugoslavia to relaunch their bilateral cooperation in several fields and make them more dynamic. He assured the Yugoslav delegation that the Zairian side will tackle the neogiations with an open mind and that the Zairian side had prepared documents which cover several sectors like agriculture which the government has given top priority. The state commissioner pointed out that some projects in the agricultural fields that were adopted during previous sessions should be updated taking into consideration new realities.

Apart from agriculture, the state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation also mentioned transportation, mining, and energy, adding that energy has benefited from Yugoslavia's assistance and this is highly appreciated by the government.

He added that Zairian and Yugoslav experts should make realistic proposals in order to give a new impetus to our bilateral cooperation, taking into consideration the legitimate interests of each side.

In his reply, Milenko Bojanic, the Yugoslav minister of trade and member of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia, said his country agrees with Zaire's point of view, adding that during their discussions special emphasis should be laid on the development of trade, not only to increase exports but also to increase imports in order to bring about a balance in our trade. He even proposed a system of compensation in case of payment difficulties. He spoke in favor of direct trade instead of a triangular one.

Mr Bojanic stressed that the bilateral negotiations which are now open will be an occasion to promote economic cooperation between Zaire and Yugoslavia, adding that his country attaches special importance to bilateral relations with Zaire, because the two countries have complementary economies with inestimable potentials. The Yugoslav minister of trade pointed out that his government has mobilized public enterprises and organizations in favor of cooperation with Zaire.

Finally, the head of the Yugoslav delegation expressed the wish to see the present session end up with proposals and offers likely to contribute to the intensification and diversification of our bilateral cooperation.

The deliberations of the present session continues until 25 January.

GAMBIA

'Arafat Arrives in Banjul From Senegal

AB260725 Dakar PANA in English 1520 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Banjul, 25 Jan (GINS/PANA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Banjul from Dakar as part of his African nations tour. He was met on arrival by Gambian External Affairs Minister Lamin Kiti Jabang. His discussions are expected to focus on the PLO's new Mid-East policy following the fratricidal struggle within the organization. The Palestinian question and other Arab issues are also expected to feature in the discussions. The PLO is presently facing a crisis between hardliners and moderates.

GHANA

Accra Faces 'Total Blackout' for Overconsumption

AB260752 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] All cities and towns that failed to achieve the 45-percent reduction in electricity will face a total blackout for a number of days. This will enable the whole country to achieve the targeted reduction.

A statement by the Ovlta River Authority and the Electricity Corporation of Ghana says Accra, for example, attained a 29-percent reduction over the period 1 December to 18 January. It will, therefore, face a total blackout of 14 days to make up for its overconsuming of power. Tea achieved a 39-percent reduction and its blackout will be for 5 days. Kumasi will not have power for 18 days. These blackouts will not necessarily be consecutively. Sekondi Takoradi achieved 29 percent and will therefore suffer the same fate as Accra, that is, 14 days blackout. Koforidua and Nkoko achieved 33 percent and will have blackout for 11 days.

There were however some improvements in reduction in the mining towns. The statement said towns which exceeded the actual percental reduction will not be affected by any blackout. It asked consumers to note that any blackout will affect all essential services including hospitals. The Energy Consumers Committee renews its appeals to all consumers to take the power cuts seriously and cooperate to achieve better results in the weeks ahead. The commission makes its clear that if the advice is taken seriously, there will be no need for total blackout.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Portuguese Foreign Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit

Met by d'Almada

LD251617 Lisbon in Portuguese to Europe 1300 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime Gama arrived in Bissau this morning for a visit to Guinea-Bissau. He was met at the airport by his counterpart Fidelis Cabral d'Almada.

After his arrival at Bissalanca Airport, Jaime Gama said that during his 3-day visit to the former Portuguese West African colony he will seek to consolidate and widen the excellent relations existing between the two countries.

Gama Speaks at Banquet

LD252244 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama said in Bissau tonight that the strengthening of relations with the Portuguese-speaking African countries is a national imperative.

Speaking at a banquet hosted by his Guinean counterpart, Fidelis Cabral d'Almada, Jaime Gama expressed the wish to widen as much as possible such relations, in addition to developing bilateral cooperation.

Jaime Gama advocated that Portugal and the Portuguese-speaking African countries jointly devote themselves to the pursuit of common interests which will thus be better defended or perfectly harmonized.

Portugal's foreign and cooperation policies are guided by a clear will to take part in priority tasks for mankind, such as the fight against underdevelopment, racial discrimination, or the resort to force or intimidation in international relations, Jaime Gama said.

Fidelis Cabral d'Almada, for his part, outlined Guinea-Bissau's foreign policy and recalled the historic, cultural and linguistic links between his country and Portugal, which is Guinea-Bissau's main trade partner.

Tonight's banquet marked the end of the 1st day of Jaime Gama's official visit to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

LIBERIA

Israeli President Herzog Departs; Communique Issued

AB260641 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The president of Israel, Hayim Herzog, departed Liberia this morning for the State of Israel following a 3-day state visit as guest of the Liberian leader, Commander in Chief [CIC] Samuel Kanyon Doe. While here, a joint communique between the two countries covering agriculture, medicine, education, and finance among others, was signed by leaders of both countries. Invitations were also extended to Liberia's health minister, Martha Sendolo Belleh, and the president of the University of Liberia to visit Israel at a time to be announced.

It can be recalled that yesterday the Israeli president, accompanied by CIC Doe, toured the Barclay Training Center and the Firestone Plantations Company. Also yesterday, an honorary doctorate degree was conferred on the Israeli president, Hayim Herzog, by the authorities of the University of Liberia.

Speaking to the press at the Roberts International Airport shortly before he departed Liberia, President Herzog thanked the people of Liberia for the wonderful welcome accorded him and his party, and he said he looked forward to welcoming many Liberians in Israel. He hoped that both countries would have fruitful cooperation.

NIGER

Information Minister Diallo Leaves for Indonesia

AB242043 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state has charged Daouda Diallo, minister of information, with a mission to Indonesia. Mr Daouda Diallo left Niamey yesterday, 23 January 1983.

NIGERIA

Envoy to UN Discusses Relations With U.S.

AB260717 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Nigeria's permanent representative to the United Nations, retired Major General Joe Garba, says the question of Namibia will be his priority on assumption of duty in New York. Speaking with a Radio Nigeria correspondent yesterday at Dodan Barracks, the permanent representative said that there were lots of initiatives still to be taken on the Namibian issue.

He blamed the ousted civilian government for pampering the United States to such a very dangerous degree that it appeared Nigeria's foreign policy was being dictated from Washington. He said that Nigeria would be (?independent) in dealing with the United States and promised to speak clearly on the economic problems facing Nigeria.

Retired Maj General Joe Garba said that the possibility to prosecute [as heard] Nigeria's dynamic foreign policy would be enhanced. The new UN permanent representative expressed gratitude to the Federal Military Government for the opportunity given to him to serve the country once again.

Maj Gen Joe Garba, who leaves on Monday for his new assignment, promised to pursue with vigor the dynamic foreign policy of the Federal Military Government.

SMC Promises To Honor Previous Agreements

GF251111 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Doha, 25 Jan (WAKH) — Brigadier General Mohamed Nasko, member of the Supreme Military Council in Nigeria, has stressed that the new regime in his country intends to honor all agreements that were concluded with other countries, particularly the OPEC member-states.

In a statement made to the Qatari newspaper *AL-'ARAB* that was published today, the Nigerian official affirmed his country's adherence to all OPEC resolutions. He said no alteration or change will be made concerning the price or production [of oil] except from within the organization and only after consulting all members.

Brigadier General Nasko noted his current tour of the Gulf region and said that the tour will also include all OPEC member states in order to stress the new regime's anxiousness to preserve and maintain the organization.

Concerning the resumption of civil life in Nigeria, he said it will become possible when all the reasons that led to the military coup at the beginning of this year disappear.

The Nigerian official made a visit to the State of Qatar yesterday, Tuesday, as part of his tour of the countries in the region. During his visits, he will deliver messages from General Mohamed Buhari, the Nigerian military governor, to the leaders of these countries.

Benin Border Crossing at Seme Reportedly Reopened

AB251310 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 25 (AFP) — The border between Nigeria and Benin at Seme, on the main road between Lagos and Cotonou, was opened today, a reliable source here said.

Nigeria's borders were closed on New Year's Eve when Major-General Muhammadu Buhari took power in a coup.

The new authorities on Monday announced that the border with Benin was being opened immediately, but travellers later said that soldiers at the Seme post had not received any order and considered the border still closed.

A traveller who went from Lagos to Benin this morning said traffic on the route was extremely light.

500 Aliens Deported

AB260740 Lagos NAN in English 1622 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Abeokuta, Jan 25 (NAN) — More than 500 illegal aliens were deported in the last two weeks by immigration offiicals at the Ajilete checkpoint near the Idiroko border. Sources at the checkpoint told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the illegal aliens entered the country through bush paths with the aid of Nigerian drivers who charged between 30 and 40 naira per alien.

The sources said that despite the official closure of the Nigeria-Benin Republic border at Adiroko the illegal aliens still entered the country through bush paths, most of which were not manned by security men.

The sources said that a group of people in an unregistered Peugeot 504 saloon car attacked immigration officials at the Ajilete checkpoint with iron rods, bottles and knives on Monday.

The attackers, believed to be the transporters of the illegal aliens, were reported to have injured four immigration officials and damaged the windscreen of a Volkswagen Beetle car belonging to an immigration official. The unarmed immigration officials were said to have taken to their heels when the attackers removed the road barriers and threatened to kill any of them who attempted to fight back. The injured officials were treated at the Idiroko border.

'Unpatriotic Attitudes' of Wanted Politicians Hit

AB242110 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Ali Idrish commentary]

[Text] In the past few weeks, some Nigerians, particularly those politicians declared wanted after the New Year's Eve coup which brought the military back into power, have declared war on the country by using foreign news media to fight their country. Some politicians, including Chief Adisa Akinloye, Chief Akinjide, Alhaji Umaro Dikko, and Alhaji Isiaku Ibrahim, who managed to evade security soon after the military took over and ran abroad, have made various unsubstantiated charges against the present administration. Some of them use either the electronic media or the daily newspapers available all over the world capitals. Many of these run-away politicians patronize more the World and African Service of the BBC. What really bothers many patriotic Nigerians is the unpatriotic attitudes of this group of Nigerians, who ran to some foreign countries and the media to level unsubstantiated charges which sometimes border on treason of their country, to the entertainment of other nationals.

In the first place, some of these foreign countries and their media houses do not wish Nigeria, the most populous and influential African nation, well. Consequently, they entertain any useless allegations from anyone who is ready to dance to their tune. It is a well-known fact that most of these media houses do not encourage such house-cleaning from countries they have selfish interests to protect. What is more, some of these foreign nations will grasp at any opportunity to destabilize Nigeria, which is being a thorn in their flesh through her dynamic African foreign policy. Another factor which these Nigerian fugitives should ponder about is the question of how many foreign nationals call at our media houses to pour venoms on their country. Nigerians who go to the BBC should ask themselves of instances where Americans, for example, had gone to the BBC to run down their country, no matter the extent of disagreement with those in power. It is not even a common occurrence among East European nations whom the West believes have a reason to use foreign media organizations as channels for sordid blackmail against their country.

Nigerians who indulge in this practice are in effect going along with some foreign governments which, after we became independent, came out with numerous false promises; chief among them is their belief that we cannot rule ourselves successfully. Nigerians have proved this wrong; as such, any time a few unpatriotic Nigerians go to them brandishing false charges, they readily allocate to them either air or space for them to be published.

For the avoidance of doubt, the new military administration has called on all public office holders to come forward to clear themselves with regard to the roles they played in the defunct administration. It is on record that most of them have complied as directed, except those who took to flight because they are afraid of their own shadows. It is even worth bringing to the notice of the world that some of the functionaries in the ousted government have been cleared and discharged. It is also worth mentioning that one of the influential cabinet ministers in the past regime, who was away when the military took over power, confidently (?flew) into the country a few days ago and made himself available to the authorities.

If these run-away politicians are sincere as they want the world to believe, they should return home and give an account of theirstewardship, as their colleagues in all parties and previous governments in the country are now doing, instead of (?mounting) vicious propaganda against the government and the good people of Nigeria.

Arrests Made in Lagos for 'Unauthorized' Statement

AB251000 Lagos NAN in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 84 (NAN) — The military governor of Lagos, Group Capt Gbolahan Mudashiru, today in Lagos ordered the arrest of some members of staff of the State Publicity Department in connection with an "unauthorized press statement on the review of teachers' salary".

The statement had claimed that the governor had authorized the approval of a new income policy for teachers in the state to enable them to rise to salary grade level 17.

An officer of the department confirmed the arrest order.

SENEGAL

'Arafat Continues 2-Day Official Visit

JN251747 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] continues his visit to Senegal. Our correspondent reported that Abu 'Ammar met last night with the speaker of the Senegalese parliament. Our correspondent said that the Senegalese official stressed during his meeting with Abu 'Ammar that the Palestine question is the crux of the Middle East crisis, and that there will be no peace in the region unless the Palestine question is solved by recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He reiterated that his country supports the Palestine question and the PLO's just struggle to regain the Palestinian people's just legitimate rights.

Abu 'Ammar arrived in Dakar the day before yesterday on a 2-day official visit. Abu 'Ammar will also visit Mali and Guinea. It is recalled that Senegal was the first west African state to grant the PLO office full diplomatic status.

Thai Commerce Minister Arrives for Rice Sales Talks

AB242220 Paris AFP in French 1748 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Text] Dakar, 24 Jan 84 (AFP) — Koson Krairoek, Thai minister of commerce, arrived in Dakar on Monday afternoon for an official visit to Senegal.

Mr Krairoek said on arrival that he was in Senegal to examine the draft agreement on rice with Senegal authorities. Mr Krairoek's arrival should make it possible to settle the disagreement that arose last August between Senegal and Thailand over Thailand's decision to increase the price of broken rice.

It will be recalled that Senegal and Thailand began negotiations in Dakar last August, during which the delegation proposed a $10 dollar increase on the price of a ton of broken rice (from $177 to $187). Thailand argued on the basis of the increase in rice prices following a fall in world production.

This proposal for an increase was rejected by the Senegalese minister of trade, Abdourahmane Toure, who said that his country was rather expecting a lowering in prices, as the last increase that occurred in April was made to the detriment of Senegal.

It will be recalled that Senegal imports about 350,000 tons of broken rice a year from Thailand. It is Thailand's first rice client. The prices of broken rice are lower than that of whole rice.

UPPER VOLTA

Lamizana Interviewed After Meeting With Sankara

AB250840 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Text] Three weeks after his acquittal, the former head of state, General Aboubacar Sangula Lamizana, was received this afternoon by the chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state, Captain Thomas Sankara, for a courtesy visit. After the audience, Gen Lamizana answered questions from our reporter:

[Begin recording] [Lamizana] I came to pay a courtesy visit to the Comrade President, which I think is quite normal. As a former head of state, I feel it is quite natural to pay such a visit.

[Reporter] The Upper Voltan people, through the People's Revolutionary Tribunals, have condemned and still condemn the regime of the Third Republic at the head of which you governed this country. Do you share this indignation?

[Lamizana] My ardent desire was to work for my country and to serve it correctly. Perhaps it was not possible for me to get it to bear the necessary fruits. But it has, nevertheless, served as an experience which can guide the present authorities to strive to do better then I did.

[Reporter] General Lamizana, Comrade President who has just received you in audience has always said that anybody who returns what he took from the people and later wants to participate in the building of a new Upper Volta will be received on the side of the popular masses. General, you have been acquitted at the end of the first trial. What do you intend to do to demonstrate your adherence to the revolution?

[Lamizana] As I said at the trial, I feel proud to see these young officers taking initiatives within the framework of the revolution for the progress of their country. I still mean what I said, and I can only wish them every success. As a former leader, I can only wish my country success. So I repeat it once more: I wish the present leaders and the revolution complete success for Upper Volta, which is dear to all of us.

[Reporter] What is your appreciation for the ongoing revolution in the country?

[Lamizana] You have just asked me whether I was successful during my tenure of office. I confessed that perhaps I did not succeed. I did what I could. There were good things as well as bad things. I hope that the revolution, as it has always been said, brings what the Upper Voltan people expect, that is, well-being. I believe that the government will try by all means to bring what it can in the form of well-being to the Upper Voltan people.

[Reporter] Do you think there is anything you can do whatsoever to help the ongoing revolution? If yes, what sort of things can you do?

[Lamizana] We are still in Africa. Whatever process is going on, old people have their place in all fields. Their place lies in the fact that they bring their experience into play. They can advise the young not to repeat the same mistakes. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Chairs People's Assembly Session

MB251520 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly, the supreme organ of state power, has been meeting in Luanda since this morning in its seventh ordinary session. The assembly's proceedings are being chaired by its chairman, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who opened the meeting with a speech.

Shortly before the speech of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the first secretary of the People's Assembly, Comrade Bernardo de Sousa, reviewed the situation of the supreme organ of state power. He said that since the last session, two deputies have died. The are Elidio Machado, who died suddenly, and (Belmiro Emilio Fernandes), who died in a road accident. Last year, Deputy (Jose Maria Sapupanha) was abducted from his home in Huambo, Bernardo de Sousa revealed. He also reported the case of Deputy (Chieto Caruto), who since August 1981 has been in the occupied areas of the heroic province of Cunene.

The first secretary also noted that the People's Assembly is holding its seventh session, with 174 of its 204 deputies present and 30 members absent due to various reasons.

At the current session the deputies will, among other things, discuss the report of the last ordinary meeting and the political and military situation in the country and study the bill on nationality. The session is also expected to ratify a number of documents which have been approved by the permanent commission, including the law setting up the regional military councils.

Text of President's Address

MB251620 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0815 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Speech by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos at the opening of the seventh session of the People's Assembly in Luanda on 25 January — live]

[Text] Comrade Deputies, due to the circumstances facing our country and the need to ensure greater attention to the conduct of the war and the implementation of the party's guidelines and those of this assembly relating to our country's economy, we were able to hold only one session of the People's Assembly last year. During that period, the People's Assembly Permanent Commission and the competent party and government organs adopted the necessary measures for the defense of the fatherland and the revolutionary gains of our people, and some of the important legal documents approved then will be submitted for ratification by this assembly session.

With the beginning of this new year, greater prospects have opened up for our people's life, and we are meeting here in order to concentrate our efforts in analyzing issues of paramount importance. Our cooperation will have an impact as far as our attention, dedication, and contribution to solving our problems is concerned. Each and every member of this assembly will make a contribution to the discussion of and search for practical means to solve the problems facing us.

Our party leadership decided that the year 1984 should be called the year of defense and production. To us this means that the search for solutions to our problems as well as the practical implementation of our decisions will always have to be carried out in the light of this party directive. This directive sums up our short-term objectives and establishes our responsibilities for the current year.

In discussing the material, human, and financial means at our disposal to enable us to carry out the tasks laid down in the two important documents on political and financial policy which are on the working agenda — this is the bill on the national plan and bill on the state general budget — the People's Assembly will also have to take into account our motto, which contains the essential objective to be achieved this year, as any decisions taken outside the context of this guideline will be doomed to failure.

It is also time we overcame the difficulties which we have been facing up to now and executed the decisions which have been taken at different levels.

We are aware that our problems do not involve so much our contributions, but mainly the weaknesses in the implementing structures. In fact, most of the measures which we have taken at times aimed at quickly solving difficult situations facing us have not been carried out with the needed speed, or have at times been completely forgotten without blame being put on the people who were supposed to either implement them or supervise their implementation. This manner of working does not bring prestige to government leaders and officials. On the contrary, it slowly but surely undermines the state's image, and it seriously undermines motivation and instills laxity among the working masses and cadres.

The prestige enjoyed by officials with the working masses results from work and the implementation of tasks aimed at meeting the main concerns and interests of the people. By solving the people's problems we decisively contribute to the strengthening of the needed unity between the party and state and the broad masses. It is, therefore, worthwhile to state that this assembly will have to pay attention to the problem of monitoring the implementation of the decisions which it has been adopting. If necessary it will have to adopt measures aimed at strengthening the executive structures.

With this I want to say that we must pay constant attention to the failures or shortcomings resulting from inefficiency, lack of discipline, and negligence in order to make it possible to place blame squarely on the defaulters. The situation calls for the creation of harmony between the sacrifices and honor of those who are on the battlefronts and the fulfillment of duties with greater dedication by those who are at the rear.

To achieve victory in the struggle in which we are engaged — both against the imperialist aggression or in the development of the national economy — the entire nation from Cabinda to

Cunene must march at the same pace. Each and every citizen must assume responsibility for their duties and obligations and jointly make the sacrifices which the current situation imposes in order to build a better future. There is no doubt that success is only possible when there is coordination between the deliberations and resolutions which we make and approve and their respective practical application.

This assertion is proven by the successes achieved last year, which were the result of the larger, greater, and more correct contributions to the war effort made without hesitation by all those who were entrusted with conducting it. If the same executive readiness can be achieved in the economic and production sectors and in the state apparatus, we shall achieve satisfactory results in the implementation of emergency programs, and we shall contribute toward increasing the production of essential goods needed by our people.

As you know, imperialism and racist South Africa are imposing on us a burdensome war of aggression. Unquestionably, this affects our program of economic and social development and, as such, we must wage a just people's war against the unjust and imperialist war, without, however, overlooking production for the development of our economy in order to maintain our survival as an independent and sovereign state. In this context, the projects in the field of the national plan and the general state budget which you, comrade deputies, are going to discuss and approve strongly reflect the difficulties emerging from the war situation facing us.

The national plan will continue to assume the character of an emergency plan in accordance with the stipulations of the resolutions of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and, as such, it represents a whole set of emergency programs which constitute an absolute priority to be implemented. Accordingly, fundamental attention must be paid by all sectors of the national economy to the implementation of the goals which have been laid down in order, on the one hand, to ensure support for and the strengthening of our defensive capability and, on the other hand, to redress or improve the efficiency of the productive capacity to be found in the country. Only in this way can we achieve the levels of material production and services proposed for 1984, which are, as it were, very ambitious.

As you know, the country's current financial limitations have made it imperative to adopt short-term measures which may permit more efficient control of foreign exchange management and the very rational utilization of our resources. In the field of investments, this year we have only given priority to projects of a strategic and urgent nature which had already been approved in previous years but had not yet been implemented. This is aimed at restoring facilities or rebuilding infrastructures which have been destroyed by enemy actions and carry out tasks laid down in the emergency programs.

The budget policy for 1984 is geared toward curbing expenditures. Although there are still some distortions in expenditures and payments, a more careful use of some revenue and a drastic reduction in expenditures would permit the monitoring of the general state budget for 1984.

This session's working agenda does not cover an analysis of the international situation. This is why the party Central Committee issued a statement about 2 months ago on this subject, a statement that lays down guidelines on the political positions to be taken on the grave international problems which concern mankind.

In the context of southern Africa, we have been complementing our efforts in the defense of the fatherland and revolution with intense diplomatic activity to achieve an end to the external aggression against our country and help find ways to speed up the application of Resolution 435/78 of the UN Security Council on the Namibian issue.

In the framework of this diplomatic work, a delegation for our government led by the deputy minister of foreign affairs was in Cape Verde, where it handed a message from the president of the Republic to the president of the Republic of this fraternal country and held talks with a delegation from the United States on a bilateral level to discuss issues of common interest, including southern African problems. In general terms, the discussion was based on four conditions announced by the president of the People's Republic of Angola in August last year during the visit by the UN secretary general to our country.

Other meetings will be held later on, and only then shall we see whether or not the results of the discussions are positive. In any event, we do not want to ease our vigilance. On the contrary, we must intensify our fight against armed puppet gangsters and insist on the immediate withdrawal of the South African forces from our country.

Our delegation did not have any contact with a South African delegation in Cape Verde. All that has been said by the international press is nothing but mere speculation. Meanwhile, I think conditions have been set up for direct discussions between South Africa and SWAPO. In fact, the two parties have already publicly expressed their opinion favoring this. I am convinced that these discussion can facilitiate the finding of a peaceful solution for the Namibian conflict on the basis of the implementation of Resolution 435/78 of the UN Security Council. However, these issues are beyond the powers of our sovereignty.

With these remarks, I am asking you, comrade deputies, to carefully analyze the items on the working agenda, and I declare the seventh session of the People's Assembly open. [applause]

Cooperation Treaty With Czechoslovakia Ratified

MB251200 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Angola and Czechoslovakia yesterday signed an agreement ratifying the mutual treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in 1981 by Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Gustav Husak during the visit by the Angolan head state to Czechoslovakia. The treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries falls within the framework of the strengthening of their political, economic, cultural, scientific-technical, and commercial relations on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Teixeira Jorge and the Czechoslovak ambassador to Angola signed this agreement ratifying the treaty. They were unanimous in affirming that this opened up prospects for a new period in the relations between the two countries.

Pact Signed With DPRK; Joint Commission Planned

MB260929 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Our country and the DPRK may increase their economic cooperation this year with the creation of a joint commission. Aside from the economic cooperation existing between the People's Republic of Angola and Korea in the fields of fishing and of construction materials, economic relations between the two countries have not yet reached the desired level for lack of an instrument to boost cooperation in all possible fields. With the creation of an Angolan-Korean joint economic commission, new prospects will be opened for bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, culture, and art. This will increase the level of production in the sectors in which the two countries are cooperating, and in the future will enable the Angolans to produce to the full capability of their resources.

According to the Korean ambassador in Angola, this year will launch an effective cooperation between the two countries, because the creation of the joint cooperation will provide the necessary impetus for progress in new sectors, as well as strengthen sectors where the Korean presence is already felt.

We recall that relations between Angola and Korea date back a long time, being initiated by Presidents Agostinho Neto and Kim Il-song, and were further strengthened in 1981 with a visit to the DPRK by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. During the visit a cooperation and friendship treaty was signed. The two countries agreed, among other things, on mutual assistance in the struggle for peace in the world, and signed agreements in the economic, cultural, and technical fields.

BOTSWANA

Foreign Minister To Attend SADCC Meeting in Lusaka

MB251841 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Mr Mogwe, will lead a Botswana delegation to the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] scheduled to start in Lusaka, Zambia, next week. Delegates leave at different times starting today to attend preliminary meetings. The Botswana delegation will include the minister for agriculture, Mr Meswele, and the minister of mineral resources and water affairs, Dr Chiepe. It is understood that the vice president and minister of finance and development planning, Mr Mmusi, will attend the conference in his capacity as chairman of the SADCC Council of Ministers.

Officials include Mr Mpotokwane, the administrative secretary in the office of the president, who is also chairman of the SADCC standing committee of officials. Also in the delegation of officials is the director of economic affairs in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Mr (Mathamboi. Others are Mr Garebamono, the secretary for external affairs; Mr (Meshack Mokone), chief agricultural economist; Mr (Mosienyane), epidemiologist in the Ministry of Agriculture; Mr (Dewa), senior industrial officer in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Mr (Motlhatlhedi), energy officer in the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs; and Mr (Kingsley), planning officer in the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs. The vice president, Mr Mmusi, will leave on Monday, 30 January.

LESOTHO

Opposition Official Released by Security Forces

MB260929 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 26 Jan 84 p 2

[*MAIL* Africa Bureau]

[Excerpt] Maseru — A well-known member of the Lesotho National Assembly, Mr Phoka Chaolane, was released by the Lesotho security police this week, informed sources said in Maseru yesterday. It is understood that he was detained under the Internal Security Act, which empowers the police to detain anyone for questioning if they are suspected of contravening this act.

Until recently Mr Chaolane, a front bencher of the opposition Congress Party, was one of the main critics of the Lesotho Government. At one stage he had to appear before the disciplinary committee of Parliament. He was one of the supporters of the introduction of the 60-day detention law which empowers the police to detain anyone for questioning without bringing that person to a court of law.

MOZAMBIQUE

Army Reports Destroying 20 Rebel Bases in Inhambane

MB260838 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The head of military operations in the southern Mozambique province of Inhambane has said victories against the South African-backed bandits in the province last year exceeded all expectations. Captain (Domingos Casse) told the MOZAMBIQUE NEWS ANGENCY, AIM, that 20 bandit bases have been destroyed, including the operational headquarters for all of southern Mozambique at Tome.

He said that the Army had now occupied the bush and forced the bandits on to the defensive. Over the Christmas and New Year period, camps in four districts were destroyed and more than 50 bandits in the camps were killed. Capt (Casse) said the bandits usually tried to take their dead with them when they flee, so the true casualty figure could be much higher. Large quantities of weapons have also been seized and goods the bandits had stolen from the people have been recovered. In one base alone, the captured material filled three big trucks.

Capt (Casse) warned, however, that small groups of bandits were still operating, although without any coordination. One such group massacred 27 civilian passengers on a bus 40 km south of Inhambane town on Friday morning. Capt (Casse) said the bandits' greatest fear was that they would be captured by the local people who hate them. He said there had even been cases of bandits running to the army for protection for fear of being killed by the people.

He said the bandits' morale was very low and many had surrendered, emaciated and covered with sores. They said the bandit chiefs ate all the food and forced them to go out and kill their Mozambican brothers. Capt (Casse) said the Army's main aim now was to keep the roads open for the marketing of agricultural produce and for drought relief to get through to the worst affected areas in the north of the province.

MNR Reportedly Frees Soviet Hostages 25 Jan

NC260938 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Lisbon, Jan 26 (AFP) — The rebel Mozambican National Resistance Movement (MNR) last night freed 12 Soviet geologists it had been holding hostage since august, MNR representative here Jorge Correia told AFP today. Mr Correia said that the rebels were still holding two of a total 24 Soviet citizens captured in an MNR attack last year in a tantalite mine in central Mozambique. He said that the 12 had been released inside Mozambique near the border with Malawi.

Negotiations leading to their being freed took place directly between the MNR and the Soviet Union, according to Mr Correia. He said the remaining two were being held as a "logistic rearguard cover" for the rebels. The MNR spokesman said that "We have honoured our undertakings and we expect the USSR to honour its undertakings", but did not reveal the nature of anything that the Soviet Union might have agreed in exchange. Last month the Soviet Union in Maputo announced that eight of the 24 hostages taken prisoner in the attack on the mine had been released and that two had died in captivity.

NAMIBIA

Multiparty Delegates Leave for Cape Town Talks

MB260849 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0827 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Windhoek, Jan 26, SAPA — A seven-man delegation of the multiparty conference in Windhoek left for Cape Town today for discussions concerning the visit of the United States under secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

The U.S. diplomat is due in Cape Town tomorrow for talks with South African officials on SWA/Namibia and a proposed ceasefire between South Africa and Angola.

The multi-party conference, discussing the future of SWA/Namibia, said in a statement today it had sent a delegation "on invitation" to Cape Town for talks concerning latest developments involving the territory.

The delegation comprises the president of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mr Kuaima Riruako; the DTA chairman, Mr Dirk Mudge; the following leaders: Damara Raad [Council], Mr Justus Garoeb; Rehoboth Liberation Front, Mr Hans Diergaardt; SWA National Union, Mr Moses Katjiuongua; SWAPO-Democrats, Mr Undreas Shipanga; and a representative of the SWA National Party, Mr Eben van Zijl.

SWAPO Statement on Negotiations With South Africa

AB261020 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Lusaka, Jan 26 (AFP) — Namibia's black nationalist SWAPO guerrillas reaffirmed their desire for negotiations with South Africa today, on the eve of key U.S.-South African talks aimed at ending the war in Namibia and bringing the territory to independence from Pretoria. SWAPO (South-West Africa People's Organization) issued a statement in this Zambian capital reviewing decisions of the movement's Politburo at a meeting last weekend in Luanda, Angola.

The guerrilla movement noted that its President Sam Nujoma had already called on UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to arrange direct talks with South Africa leading to a cease-fire in the 17-year-old guerrilla war and to independence. "In this connection, SWAPO once again reiterates its readiness to talk to South Africa, as the other party to the armed conflict in Namibia, in order to bring about an immediate end to bloodshed, suffering and economic hardship in our country," the statement said.

SWAPO called on the world community, "particularly those Western countries which have extensive relations with South Africa, to put the necessary pressure to bear upon Pretoria to accept our sincere offer for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Namibia."

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker is to hold talks tomorrow in Cape Town with South African Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha in an attempt to end the deadlock over Namibia. Mr Crocker then goes on to Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, and then Europe.

In today's statement, SWAPO again rejected the linkage of a Cuban troop withdrawal with Namibian independence as "irrelevant and extraneous" to UN Security Council Resolution 435, "the only basis for a peaceful solution to the Namibian problem."

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha: No SWAPO Rejection of Cease-fire Offer

MB261516 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1502 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Cape Town, Jan 26, SAPA — The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has revived hope of agreement on a ceasefire with SWAPO today by saying that SWAPO had not rejected his proposal.

He reacted to enquiries regarding the status of the January 31 deadline for the ceasefire offer and said the proposal could still be implemented "should SWAPO give a positive indication of a willingness to start with a process."

"SWAPO has not rejected the ceasefire proposal and it can therefore still be put into effect," he said.

The issue of South Africa's ceasefire offer is bound to receive attention during the talks with the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, that start at the Fleur du Cap estate in Stellenbosch tomorrow.

Mr Botha's statement today clearly emphasises South Africa's continued willingness to implement a ceasefire in the operational area on the Angolan border as a first step towards a settlement of the SWA/Namibian issue.

It is understood from diplomatic sources that the offer has pleased the U.S. and other members of the Western five Contact Group and it is likely that it will be further explored during the talks between Dr Crocker and Mr Botha tomorrow afternoon and evening.

The talks are expected to last until late and possibly continue in Cape Town on Saturday morning, during which time it is likely that the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, may also meet Dr Crocker briefly.

SADF Reiterates Troop Pullout from Angola

MB260955 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] Angola says South African forces are still occupying its territory. Angolan representative Antonio Tombia has told the United Nations Security Council that South Africa's claim of its withdrawal from Angola is not true. He says the Western media is reporting South Africa's claims, but in fact they are not true. The Security Council ordered the immediate withdrawal of South African troops from Angola on 6 January. In response to Tombia's allegation, the South African Defense Force says it appears the Angolan Government is referring to those recently completed Operations Askari in Angola, and that South African troops are out of the area.

Ambassador to U.S. Returns for Friday's Talks

MB260950 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] The American ambassador to Mozambique, Mr Peter De Vos, arrived in Lisbon yesterday for talks with Dr Crocker's deputy, Mr Wisner. Our correspondent in Lisbon reports that the American Ambassador to Guinea-Bissau, Mr Wesley Egen, will also meet Mr Wisner in the city.

South Africa's ambassador in Washington, Dr Brandt Fourie, has in the meantime left the United States for South Africa. The South African ambassador at the United Nations, Mr Kurt von Schirnding, and the administrator-general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, have already arrived in South Africa for tomorrow's talks.

Liaison Committee With Lesotho Meets 25 Jan

MB251903 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1655 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 25, SAPA — The fourth annual meeting of the Lesotho-South African Inter-Governmental Liaison Committee was held in Pretoria today, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced in a brief statement. The communique said the committee, composed of senior officials from the two countries, had discussed matters of mutual interest, including environmental and transport issues. The talks had taken place in a "cordial and relaxed atmosphere," it said. It gave no further details.

SWAZILAND

New Regional Officials Equal to Deputy Ministers

MB260945 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 26 Jan 84 p 15

[By *TIMES* reporter]

[Text] The appointments of four regional administrators under the Tinkhundla constitutional system were reaffirmed yesterday. The appointments were originally announced in a government gazette last year, but there was uncertainty as to whether or not they would actually take up their positions.

The regional administrators will take over the present functions of district commissioners who were civil servants. The administrators are now political appointees and they will enjoy the status of deputy cabinet ministers, although they will not necesarily sit in the cabinet. They are the equivalent of what in other countries in Africa are called regional governors. The reaffirmation of their appointments was made in an announcement by the Indvuna of the Tinkhundla, Mr Madeni Tshabalala.

The former district commissioner for the Hhohho district, Mr Bilini Dlamini, is the regional administrator for the Manzini region. The other regional governors, who have not been posted to their specific regions yet, are: Tibiyo Takangwane, assistant general manager and former district commissioner, Mr Abednigo Mamba (Hhohho), Mr Rhodes Nxumalo, and Mr Senzenjani Shabangu.

The post of district commissioner will be abolished and the officers holding those jobs will become regional secretaries.

Addressing a meeting of chiefs and Tinkhundla officials, Mr Tshabalala said the late King Sobhuza II initially intended to introduce the system as early as 1978. Mr Tshabalala reiterated the official position that King Sobhuza's policies would be maintained and his wishes for the future of the country would be carried out. "Regional offices in the four districts will be functioning as lower houses of Parliament," he said.

ZAMBIA

Zimbabwe, Mozambique Help Needed on Rivers

MB261006 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, said in Luangwa today that the party and its government is to approach the Governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe to work out ways of improving river transport on the Zambezi and Luangwa rivers. The president noted that although the countries shared part of the two rivers, transport on them was not organized properly. He said Zambia would approach the two countries in the spirit of cooperation of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. The president said that, once improved, river transport would enable people living in the adjoining areas to visit each other frequently, and cement the already sound relations among the three countries. Dr Kaunda was speaking in Luangwa, where he went to continue his tour of markets and shops dealing in essential commodities. Dr Kaunda returns to Lusaka tomorrow.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Fields Assembly Questions 25 Jan

MB251714 Harare Domestic Service in English 1215 GMT 25 Jan 84

["Question time" by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe in the House of Assembly in Harare on 25 January; questioners unidentified — live]

[Excerpts] [Speaker of the House of Assembly] Once again we are most grateful for the prime minister for being available for this very interesting and now popular event in our parliament, the prime minister's question time, and we have members asking their questions.

[Question] In view of the talks now taking place between the governments of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa, which are receiving worldwide publicity except for our local media, does the prime minister visualize and even contemplate at this stage that similar talks be initiated between the Zimbabwean Government and the South African Government, who after all are still our biggest trading partners [words indistinct] in an endeavour to bring peace, charity, and stability to the region and to develop it for all of us?

[Speaker] Honorable prime minister.

[Mugabe] Thank you, Mr Speaker. It will, I am sure, be known to the members of this House that at the establishment of our independence, we retained a trade mission in Johannesburg and allowed South Africa to establish a trade mission here in Harare, and that therefore in respect to matters of trade, in regard to those matters, we have maintained contact with South Africa in in a very open manner. It may also be a familiar thing to members of this House that when events occur of a nature that require that we consider matters of security that might have occured on our border with South Africa that we allow our security officers to confer with the South Africans on the other side of the border in order to achieve security, peace, and calm, and a state of law and order along our border. And so there have been those contacts with South Africa. The nature of the contacts that Mozambique is having with South Africa has to do with the situation in the conflict that affects Mozambique, and we as I say have had relations with South Africa in the sphere of law and order, and so there has already been contact. Thank you.

[Question] Will the honorable prime minister comment on the current security situation in Matabeleland?

[Speaker] Honorable prime minister.

[Mugabe] The situation in Matabeleland we have always [words indistinct] discuss and members in this House have [words indistinct] question on it. [words indistinct]. The situation in Matabeleland continues to give rise to concern. I have said that the situation is not worsening. If anything it is now under greater control than in the past. But obviously there continue to be murders and there continue to be harassments and other acts of lawlessness in different areas of Matebeland and the government is taking steps to ensure that security is present and that law and order returns to that region. But the situation is as we know it. There are dissidents operating in given areas of Matabeleland, and they operate in the name of ZAPU, in the name of the father of Zimbabwe, and whether these are nurtured by ZAPU, which some of them are, or by South Africa, which others are, they all fight for one cause, that is to sustain ZAPU and lead it into power and leadership.

[Question indistinct]

[Speaker] Honorable prime minister.

[Mugabe] Thank you, Mr Speaker. The questions seeks to find out whether our military capability is such that we can withstand the acts of aggression emanating from South Africa. We are a young country with a young nation and a small army still ill-equipped. But it is a developing army and as time goes on, we will ensure that it has that appropriate capability which we will want it to have. However, we are vigilant. Having fought for independence, having sacrificed so much for it, our people are determined that the acts of aggression by South Africa shall always be repulsed. And this is why on those occasions when they sent in units — commando units to destabilize this region and to commit acts of sabotage — those units did not last more than a few days, and they were all fully accounted for by our defense force. Some bodies we showed you are in Harare here and so we remain vigilant. We feel we have the capability to defend ourselves from the acts of aggression that South Africa has to date mounted against us. In the event of a greater assault amounting to an invasion, well we will do our best by mobilizing all our forces, but one hopes that South Africa will think twice before resorting to such ill-conceived acts of destablizing our region. However, we continue to [words indistinct] of transforming our army, building it into a viable force the people of Zimbabwe can rely upon to protect their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

[Question] Mr Speaker, would the honorable prime minister tell this House why the Government of Zimbabwe declined to attend a memorial service in Harare [words indistinct] U.S. Marines and French soldiers who were killed in recent massive bombing atrocities in Beirut?

[Speaker] Honorable prime minister.

[Mugabe] Mr Speaker, we received no such invitation and, therefore, my government never declined. What I am aware of is that the U.S. ambassador here wrote to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informing the ministry that it was the intention of the embassy to have a memorial service conducted and that, therefore, they were inviting certain other representatives of other missions to come to the service, but the government itself never received an invitation to attend that service. And when I spoke later to Ambassador Keeley, he said the letter was purely a gesture of courtesy to the minister of information — sorry, to the minister of foreign affairs — informing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that this was the intention of the embassy. They wanted to conduct this service, and they wanted the knowledge [as heard] then to go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but it was no invitation.

[Question indistinct]

[Speaker] Honorable prime minister.

[Mugabe] Thanks, Mr Speaker. UNESCO is a very important agency. The United Nations, my government, and the people of Zimbabwe have been its beneficiaries, and so we regard it with great respect indeed. We respect that organization for its objectives for what it has tried to do throughout the world, and we ourselves are a member of that organization. We will continue to be a member even though the United States withdraws from it. We will continue to abide by the principles of that organization and to seek more support from it whatever its membership or the complexion of its membership might be. It is regrettable that the United States has been [word indistinct] to withdraw from that organisation. We express our regret. The United States has the right to withdraw its membership just as it has the right to become a member of any UN agency and so we cannot question the validity of its withdrawal. The United States is entitled to withdraw. We may regret it, but what then? I would hope that the remaining members would continue to make it viable financially and also technically and to offer support, maximum support, to it. Otherwise the organization, it is an organization [words indistinct] disintegrate merely because the United States withdrew. The impression would then be [words indistinct] as universal an organization as it pretended to be. It was a U.S. organization. I would hope that the rest of countries, the rest of the members, will continue to give it maximum support.

[Question] Mr Speaker, might you ask the honorable prime minister, in view of his well-known disapproval of aid funds having conditions attached to them, how he views the recent aid which was offered by the secretary general of the Commonwealth to Grenada under condition that Grenada got rid of all foreign troops. He, as the Zimbabwean prime minister, is an important and senior member of the Commonwealth prime ministers' conference. [words indistinct]

[Speaker] Honorable prime minister.

[Mugabe] Thanks, Mr Speaker, I think we should begin where the whole issue logically starts. Grenada was invaded by the United States and the other Caribbean countries and that invasion was condemned by the United Kingdom. It was condemned by us. It was condemned by the United Nations. When we met in New Delhi, the members who constitute the Commonwealth brotherhood who were present expressed themselves on that question of the invasion of Grenada, and we had a resolution forming part of the declaration that emanated from New Delhi on Grenada and the resolution was to the effect that the Commonwealth would only give assistance if foreign troops withdrew. It urged that there be reconciliation in the country, that the situation should develop towards elections really without the presence of foreign troops in Grenada. And so we were party to that resolution and accordingly we see nothing wrong in our insistence that until the situation in Grenada is one which satisfies us and satisfies us in terms of the nonpresence or absence of foreign troops, we will not, as the Commonwealth, extend assistance to Grenada, and this is the message I think which the secretary general of the Commonwealth took to the governor general of Grenada [word indistinct] to his administration as a whole. And I do not see anything that conflicts with the principle that aid, if it is to be aid at all, to Zimbabwe must have no strings attached. We are not attaching any strings. We are only saying we would want to give aid to a Grenada which is not being manipulated by any master. We want to give aid to a Grenada which has sovereignty and which is not suffering under the presence of invasion.

West German Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

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[Text] A 3-man delegation has arrived in Zimbabwe from the federal parliament of West Germany. The team is on a fact-finding mission on the political and economic situation in Southern Africa. A spokesman for the group said the visit is being sponsored by the federal parliament in Bonn. The delegation has been to Lesotho, where it held discussions with the Lesotho ministers of foreign affairs, information, and transport. They will leave Harare for Lusaka on Saturday before traveling from Zambia to Angola.